

## Russia warns American journalists on trial reports

The Russians have accused the American press and officials in the Carter Administration of trying to distort world opinion on the trials of two Soviet dissidents, Mr Alexander Ginzburg and Mr Anatoly Shcharansky, which open today. Tass says the Americans are intervening in Soviet internal affairs by attempting to influence the courts.

## Tass hints at another spying charge

From Michael Binyon  
Moscow, July 9

On the eve of the most important dissident trials in the Soviet Union for several years, the Russians today accused the American press and "certain quarters" in the American Administration of attempting to impose on world public opinion their own distorted viewpoint of the trials.

The comment by Tass is a clear reply to the statement issued by Mr Cyrus Vance, the American Secretary of State, on the trials of Anatoly Shcharansky and Alexander Ginzburg.

It suggested that the Americans themselves were to be implicated in the charges against the two men and suggested that the charge of espionage is to be brought against another person apart from Mr Shcharansky.

Tass said that American officials, whose views were reflected in some organs of the American press, wanted to bring pressure to bear on the Soviet courts to open hearings and establish in detail criminal cases according to the procedure established in law.

Calling this interference in the Soviet Union's internal affairs, Tass went on: "These gentlemen apparently forget elementary norms of international law."

"It is inadmissible in Western countries to influence the decisions of the courts," Tass said, "as far as we know, persons attempting to influence the decisions of the courts in the United States are liable to be prosecuted under the law."

Tass went on to say that the court determining the fate of the defendants will be the court of the capital, Moscow, and that the charges against the defendants will be charged under the criminal code, the charges including spying for a foreign power.

The comment consistently refers to "defendants" in the plural. So far it is only been stated that Mr Shcharansky is to be tried in Moscow tomorrow, while Mr Ginzburg's trial is to be held in Leningrad, 100 miles from the capital. And only Mr Shcharansky has been charged with espionage.

Mr Ginzburg's charge is the subject of anti-Soviet propaganda, which is the subject of a recent article in the Soviet media, in connection with the charges, have made it clear that the authorities have already judged Mr Ginzburg to be a traitor.

The Soviet Union has accepted the charges against Mr Ginzburg and has accepted the charges against Mr Shcharansky, but it has not accepted the charges against Mr Ginzburg.

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Obituary, page 11

## Former Iraq Prime Minister shot in London

By a Staff Reporter

General Abdul Razzak al-Najfi, a former Prime Minister of Iraq, was shot and seriously wounded outside the Intercontinental Hotel, Hyde Park, yesterday. A passer-by chased a man, at the scene, huddled him into a taxi, and drove him to the Victoria Police station.

General al-Najfi, aged 44, left the hotel at about 10.45 am and started to enter a taxi. A man who had been loitering in the street came up behind him and fired several shots, one of which hit him in the back of the head. He was taken to the intensive care unit at Westminster Hospital where his condition last night was serious.

The police cordoned off the hotel and appealed for witnesses. One bullet marked the pillar of the hotel on the Park Road. A black Rolls-Royce was standing in the middle of the road between the two hotels.

Mr Richard Wright, a tourist official who had just seen a party off to Windsor, said: "We heard a very loud report, which seemed to be a backfire. We looked round the corner. There were five or six reports, although some people say they heard only four. There was a shriek that a man had been shot, but I did not see him fall. Then we saw three people giving chase; two of them, I think, were hotel staff."

Det. Chief Supt William Huckleby asked reporters not to identify the man who had chased the Arab nor to publish his photograph, "since by doing so you will be placing him in jeopardy."

General al-Najfi was Prime Minister of Iraq only for a fortnight after a coup in 1968. He fled the country later and was sentenced to death in his absence. Later that year he survived an attempted assassination by three young Iraqis in London. His wife was shot and wounded in the attack at their house in Bryanston Square, London. General al-Najfi acquired Jordanian nationality in 1975.

## Mr Dayan to attend London talks

From Michael Knappe  
Jerusalem, July 9

Israel's Cabinet decided today to accept the invitation for Mr Moshe Dayan, the Foreign Minister, to meet the Egyptian and Jordanian counterparts in London on July 18. It reiterated, however, after its weekly meeting that it rejected the proposals for a Middle East settlement submitted by Egypt last week.

A statement said the Egyptian proposals were unacceptable and, by their very nature, could not lead to the establishment of peace in the Middle East or the conclusion of peace treaties with Israel.

Mr Dayan, it said, would present Israel's position to the London conference, "with the view to resuming the work of the Egyptian-Israeli political committee and the promotion of the peace-making process."

The work of the Egyptian-Israeli political committee was cut short when President Sadat, the Egyptian leader, abruptly withdrew his team from the negotiations.

The Jerusalem government has given the impression that it is accepting only reluctantly to the London meeting. Vienna: President Sadat and Mr Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, have agreed to meet in London on July 18. The meeting will be held over several days.

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State control doubts  
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President sworn in  
Sator Alessandro Pertini, the seventh Italian President, took the oath of office before the joint Houses of Parliament today. He was elected him on Saturday with 872 out of 993 votes cast.

Pupils held back  
A government survey of primary schools to be published in the autumn shows that some children are being held back because teachers do not have sufficient knowledge. Science is the worst subject.



Heaving on 27-ft paddles, two of the Barrier Beaver's five-man crew helping their craft to second place in the seven-mile Thames barge driving race. The winner was Batmorel.

## Britain seeks substantial changes in plan for EEC currency zone

By Caroline Atkinson

The British Government believes that major problems remain to be solved before the proposed new zone of European currency stability can become a reality.

Officials last night tried to counteract the impression that the Prime Minister, who was unhappy with the outcome of the EEC leaders' summit in Bremen which called for a new European currency arrangement.

They stressed that the so-called Franco-German plan, described in some detail at the end of the official communiqué, was merely a starting point, and not "the final scheme."

Britain appears to be hoping that substantial modifications to the plan will be made over the next six months as finance ministers and officials work out the details.

In particular, the Government believes that the rules should obligate surplus countries to expend and reduce their trade surpluses, just as deficit countries have to adjust to close their trade gap. Where this is impossible, rate changes must be allowed.

The thoughts of the heads of state of the major Western countries are now turning to the Bonn economic summit, which takes place next Sunday and Monday. The American, Japanese and Canadian leaders will join the British, French, German and Italian to discuss world economic problems.

Over the past weeks, hopes that positive action to stimulate the world economy will result from the Bonn meeting have been steadily fading.

The topic of most importance to the British will be that of growth. They hope—but do not necessarily expect—that the Germans will announce new measures to stimulate their growth. However, Herr Helmut Schmidt, the German Chancellor, may prefer to wait to decide on this until the end of July when his Cabinet will discuss the German budget for next year.

The American contribution to the summit was expected to be a commitment on the reduction of their energy imports.

However, President Carter's room for manoeuvre has been severely limited by Congress. He may hint at executive measures to limit imports to be taken if the Energy Bill still arising through Congress meets further problems. However, he is unlikely to jeopardize what remains of the Bill by announcing new measures in Bonn.

The Americans are also pessimistic about the progress on the trade talks under way in Geneva. They believe that the EEC proposals on agriculture are unsatisfactory.

Resistance to growing protectionism was one of the five points in the plan put forward by Mr James Callaghan for discussion at Bonn.

The British will not, move far on this unless they are satisfied that a large transfer of real resources should be made to the poorer countries in the arrangement; and that large medium- and short-term credit facilities should be available.

There was agreement between the finance ministers last month at most of these points, and the British hope that they will change and amplify the Bremen scheme to take account of these.

## Riot police action in Pamplona condemned

From Harry Dabell  
Madrid, July 9

Reverly turned to riding at the famous San Fermín bull-fight festival in the northern Spanish city of Pamplona this weekend, resulting in one death, 125 injuries, over 100 burnt cars and serious damage to shops, government offices and the offices of a right-wing newspaper.

Today provincial and municipal authorities condemned what they said was police over-reaction. The city council, at an emergency meeting this afternoon, decided to ask the Government for the immediate withdrawal of all riot police from the streets of Pamplona.

It described a charge by police in the bullring on Saturday as "violent and out of all proportion." Señor Ignacio Llano, the Civil Governor, said that the police action in the bullring, which preceded the riots, was "unfortunate and unnecessary."

The Interior Minister today sent three more companies of specially-trained riot police to the uneasy city and promised an investigation.

Thousands of tourists, many of whom had been trapped inside the crowded bullring on Saturday when police entered firing rubber bullets and smoke grenades, began to leave today's bullfight which officials and organizers were considering cancelling the festival.

The disturbances began on Saturday, the third day of the week-long fiesta, as the bullfight ended, when a group of youths jumped in to the ring and unfurled a green banner before the 17,000 spectators. The banner called for the release of all Basque prisoners.

The criteria are that surplus countries would be under an equal obligation to adjust their economies to balance their payments, as would deficit countries; that a large transfer of real resources should be made to the poorer countries in the arrangement; and that large medium- and short-term credit facilities should be available.

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## Tories cautious on Bremen scheme

By George Clark  
Political Correspondent

If a Conservative Government came to power at the general election in October it would have to act cautiously on the proposals for establishing a European zone of currency stability discussed by the European leaders at Bremen last week, Sir Geoffrey Howe, OC, Shadow Chancellor, said yesterday.

Caution would be necessary, he said, because the British economy had been run down by the Government's economic and financial policy.

The Opposition needs to look at the plan much more closely than we have had time for in the past 48 hours, but obviously it is desirable to make some move back towards more stability at the moment, and indeed more widely than that," Sir Geoffrey said.

"One would need to see that our own economy was in the right condition to make such a move. The discussion between our own economic performance and most of the Community economies is such that we would have to look at the plan very cautiously."

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## Pretoria hits back after black victory in war game

From Nicholas Ashford  
Johannesburg, July 9

It took only six hours for black nationalists to seize control of South Africa when a controversial new board game based on a race war in South Africa was played in Johannesburg this week. It did not take much longer for the South African authorities to appreciate the game's dangerous implications and have it seized by police.

The game is called "South Africa—the death of colonialism" and has been produced by an American firm which specializes in games of tactics and strategy. The South African military attaché in London has played the game and pronounced it to be accurate from the geographical and military point of view.

However, what upset him and the South African authorities is the game's political bias, because it has a built-in victory for black nationalists forces over government troops. The idea is to see how long the "government" player can survive off his miserable defeat.

This is not the sort of strategic thinking the South African Government likes its citizens to indulge in. A Government which constantly issues warnings about the "harmful" building up along the borders is not one to accept defeat at the hand of a board game.

So yesterday two policemen were duly despatched to the offices of the Johannesburg Sunday Express, which had first drawn attention to the game, to seize it. At the same time a leading Johannesburg hobby shop decided the game was too hot to handle and destroyed all its copies.

The game has not yet been banned, but under the Publications Act the police are empowered to seize any article, book or publication which might be objectionable. The police also produced ministerial authority to seize the offending game, which belongs to Miss Jane Goodwin, Johannesburg correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor.

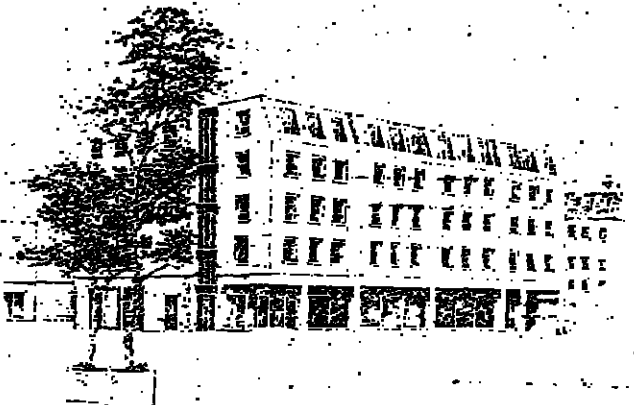
Police are still in possession of the game, although while they try to find a way to defeat the black nationalists. For White South Africans the game operates from a depressingly realistic basis and shows the sort of high-tech warfare which Opposition spokesmen have already been warning about. It assumes that Rhodesia has already been defeated in its guerrilla war and that Angola and Mozambique have become lawless lands for black nationalist armies.

Initially South Africa, with its superior armaments, achieves a number of conventional victories. But gradually law and order starts to break down as the guerrillas establish themselves in black townships, such as Soweto and in rural areas. Eventually even the tribal "homelands" become involved on the side of the nationalists.

In the game which was played by two "war game" experts in Johannesburg this week, Bloemfontein was the first big city to fall, followed by Johannesburg and Pretoria, and Cape Town holding out until last. However, South Africans can gain some relief from the fact that six hours on the board is equivalent to several years in real life.

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This campaign is supported by The Scottish Council for Spastics



By Alan Hamilton  
Mr Brian Hambley, Lord Protector of Cornwall, Speaker of the Stannary Parliament, and his driver, has staked out, on a 500-acre moorland, a claim for his native birth and declared his intention to scour the land for his own use. He considers himself absolved from any obligation to pay his car tax, nor does he regard the upstart Parliament of Westminster.

The Queen's writ, Mr Hambley holds, does not run in Cornwall, and especially it does not run in the ranks of the privileged tinners.

Attempts to reestablish the Stannary, the ancient tin miners' parliament, as the recognized legislature of the Royal Duchy of Cornwall, have been in progress since 1973, when the parliament was reconvened in an hotel at Lostwithiel after a lapse of 222 years. In its fight for recognition it has won two rounds in the courts and is about to try for a third.

Today in Newquay a Stannary court will sit under a canopy court judge to hear Mr Hambley's application to work the land, the property of Lord Falmouth, lord lieutenant of the county, for tin. The outcome will be of considerable significance for tin boulders like Mr Hambley, and for the cause of the Stannary.

Stannary courts fell into disuse when the Cornish mining industry collapsed in the 1870s. Today's court is the second to be held since 1897. The first, held last year, reflected a tin bouldering application on a technicality, but upheld the principle that privileged tinners could exercise their ancient rights.

The judgment was received with much satisfaction by the stannators. They were equally delighted when, last month, magistrates at St Austell, after much deliberation, decided they had no authority to hear a case against Mr Hambley who claimed that the Charter of Pardon granted to the Cornishmen by Henry VII in 1508 absolved him from having to display an up-to-date tax disc on his car.

In 1975, when Mr Frederick Trull, the stannators' former clerk, appeared in court on a motoring offence, he exercised his tinners' privilege by attempting to arrest the clerk of the court. Mr Trull was expelled from the Stannary and the Cornish paper currency bearing his signature was withdrawn and burnt.

Stannary rights are obscured in a Byzantine labyrinth of constitutional law, but Mr Hambley and his supporters claim to have found a direct route through the jungle to a charter of Edward I dated 1305, in which he re-affirmed Cornish customs and rights, including freedom from taxation.

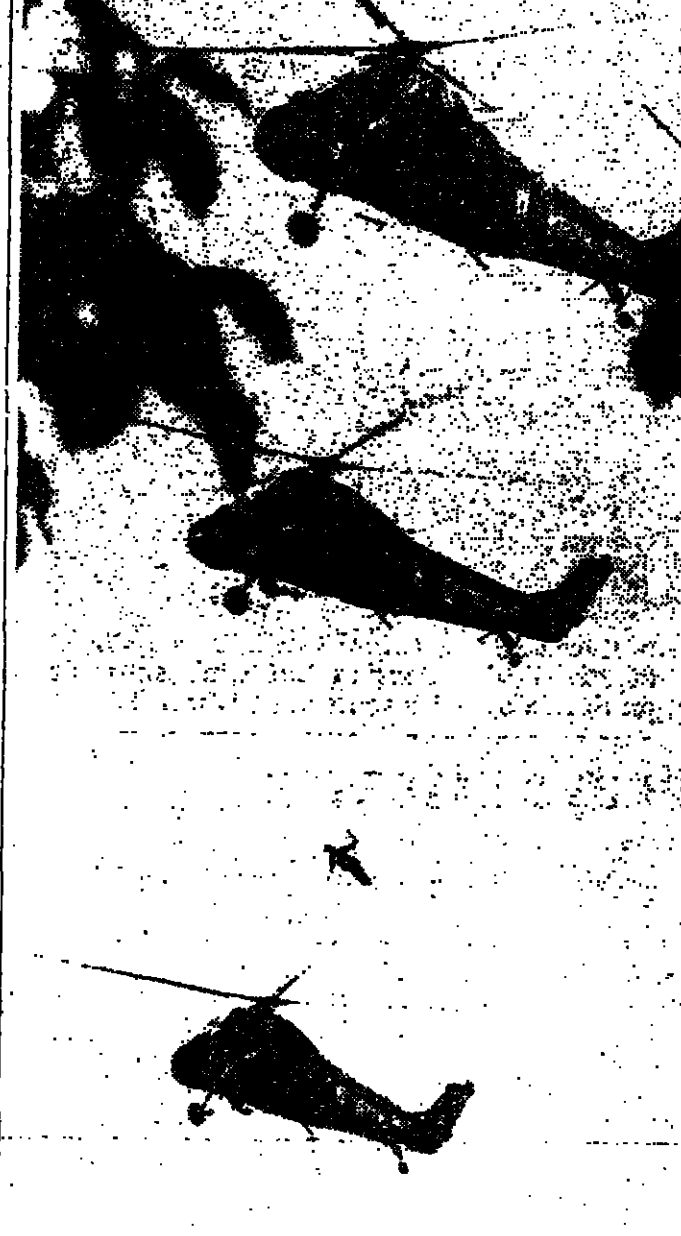
The view is supported by Professor Robert Pennington, of the Faculty of Law at Birmingham University. In his introduction to a reprint of the old Stannary laws he stated: "Although the Convocation of the Tinners of Cornwall has not met since 1731, it still exists as a legal institution, and its powers under the Charter of Pardon of 1508, and the earlier customary law, remain unimpaired."

Plan for tax reform.  
The Home Office, however, has argued that the new Stannary Parliament is not properly constituted. The royal duchy maintains a diplomatic immunity. Lord Latham, Lord Warden of the Stannaries and official agent of the Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, has declined to take his seat as Speaker; hence Mr Hambley has adopted his Cornish role.

The 24 stannators are seeking to establish their case by legal means; and their aim is a substantial measure of self-government.  
Mr Edward Trevelyan-Wells, Recorder-General of the Stannaries and a retired hotelier, said: "We are entitled in law to be a self-governing unit within Great Britain. We see Cornwall as being on a par with the Isle of Man or the Channel Islands, but not as an independent principality. Our allegiance is to Cornwall, the Crown and Britain, but not to Westminster."

The real argument of the stannators is about economic control.  
Many Cornishmen feel that their county has suffered from high unemployment and lack of investment ever since the collapse of the tin industry in the 1870s, a point brought home recently by the closure of one of the biggest tin mines, Wheal Jane.

HOME NEWS  
Cornishmen  
stake  
a claim for  
freedom



Three Wessex helicopters hovered at 200ft over Hyde Park, London, yesterday while four Royal Marines from each abseiled down ropes to the ground before joining the Royal Tournament preview parade.

Moss Side clash gives a foretaste of police task

From John Chartres  
Manchester  
Although the violence that the main party candidates in the Manchester, Moss Side, by-election have feared since the National Front announced its entry, flared only briefly on Saturday, the incidents may have worrying implications for the forthcoming general election.

By comparison with events in the past year at Hyde and Bolton the fighting in Manchester was confined and the violence was over in a few minutes.

Nevertheless, it was a disturbing example of what the police and others may have to contend with, as Mr John Tyndall, the Front's chairman, predicted, his party fields more than 200 candidates in an October election.

About 150 Front members and supporters who had been prevented from holding an indoor meeting in a school because of Manchester City Council's ruling, gathered at a large public house in Maudslough Road, on the southern fringe of the constituency, and then moved to an open space about five hundred yards away. The location had not been publicized in advance.

Young National Front stewards, many wearing badges, lined up to guard the entrance. A young man, Mr Tyndall, and Mr Herbert Andrews, the Moss Side candidate, made fairly standard speeches with carousing references to the refusal of the Labour-controlled city council to allow school bookings for Front meetings. Only a few police were in sight.

The first sign of opposition was a "Fascists Out" banner held up by seven young people. An equal number of National Front stewards faced them across the road, with a police car between.

Then small groups of young men and women, some black and most wearing yellow Anti-Nazi League badges, appeared on the grass central reservation of Maudslough Road. Some carried sticks.

Fighting involved about twenty people on either side. Half-bricks and stones flew. A black youth who evaded him, and a plainclothes officer drove his unmarked car into the middle of the fracas, standing his ground for about two minutes while calling on his radio for assistance.

Reinforcements included a woman police sergeant, who entered the fray. Four young men were arrested.

When the opposition group grew to about a hundred, 50 police separated the factions. Chants of "Nazi scum" were countered by the singing of the National Anthem.

During the melee Mr Tyndall could be heard saying that the communist threat to Britain lay not only in Russian tanks but among the type of people who stood across the road.

Earlier, in another part of the constituency, a market trader's van bearing Union Jack posters was stoned by demonstrators thought to have mistaken the stickers for Front emblems.

Mr Thomas Murphy, the Conservative candidate, said yesterday: "It is very sad that this sort of thing should happen in Britain, where everyone has been able to put forward every point of view in public without physical interference."

Today the Front's solicitors will apply to Manchester County Court to have the city's refusal of school bookings reversed.

October 1974: F. Hutton (Lab.), 15,212; J. Lee (C), 11,101; W. Wallace (L), 5,686; N. Boyle (C, P, Rights), 238; H. Smith (Cons, Del), 96. Lab majority 4,111.

Anti-racialism campaign backed by dozen groups  
By a Staff Reporter  
Hundreds of thousands of leaflets aimed primarily at combating the ideas on racialism of such organizations as the National Front will be distributed today at the beginning of a national campaign by the Joint Committee Against Racism.

The leaflets show white children and coloured children playing together on a school slide with the message: "Unity is our future. Don't let racism destroy it", and a picture of Westminster Palace carrying the message that racialism is an evil philosophy and that organizations like the National Front are spreading hatred and disunity, using black people as scapegoats as Hitler used Jews in Germany.

The committee is an alliance of a dozen organizations: the Labour and Liberal parties, the National Union of the Conservative Party, the Board of Deputies of British Jews, the British Council of Churches, the Supreme Council of Sikhs, the Federation of Bangladesh Associations, the Indian Workers Association, the Standing Conference of Pakistani Organizations, the West Indian Standing Conference, the British Youth Council and the National Union of Students.

Formed in December 1977, the committee said that it opposed racialism, like a cancer, could pollute the nation's life to the danger of ordinary decent values of justice, tolerance and equality.

It is appealing for funds for a large-scale united campaign against racialism, and in favour of a multi-racial society in Britain.

Mr Craig wants a 'federal UK'  
Mr William Craig, Ulster Unionist MP for Belfast, East, called on Orangemen on Saturday to campaign for a new, written British constitution. He said in Glasgow that devolution must lead to a federal United Kingdom. There must be a new constitution that would include provision for a new House of Commons and a new second Chamber from the "states and provinces".

WEST EUROPE  
New Italian President underlines need for defence of the republic at whatever cost

From Peter Nichols  
Rome, July 9  
President Alessandro Pertini, the seventh head of state since the founding of the Italian republic, today swore allegiance to the constitution. At 81 he is the oldest President and certainly the most intransigent, yet for the most part in his anti-Fascist exploits.

He received the biggest vote ever accorded by the presidential electors and this at the worst moment in the country's post-war history.

He took office before a joint sitting of the two Houses of Parliament reinforced by delegates from the 20 regions. This body which elected him yesterday won 832 out of 995 votes cast.

In his brief speech he made a warmly applauded reference to the murdered leader of the Italian Democrat Party, who would, he said, have been delivering the acceptance speech today if he had not fallen victim to the terrorism of the Red Brigades.

He then quoted a list of anti-Fascist martyrs. His choice of names indicated his acceptance of various creeds as long as they led towards liberty. He mentioned Matteotti, the first Socialist martyr whose murder in 1924 inaugurated the use of political terrorism against Western democracy.

He mentioned Giuseppe Garibaldi, the revolutionary liberal; Don Minzoni, the anti-Fascist priest; and finally his own prison-mate, Antonio Gramsci, the Communist Party's second official secretary but its most original thinker. These names alone represent so far as the institution permits, a presidential programme.

Signor Pertini, a Socialist and holder of the Gold Medal for Valour, of the wartime resistance, was eloquent about the need for social justice which he saw as inextricably connected with liberty. There could not be one without the other. He was equally determined in his rejection of violence and in emphasizing the need to defend the republic at whatever cost to the individual.

Among the urgent issues he mentioned unemployment, housing and fair treatment of the forces of law and order. He complained that Italian virtues were under attack. What other people, he asked, would have stood up as the Italians have to the tempest of violence which has struck them? He saw Italy as essentially a free country, and his own election as an indication of this.

These were brave words from a brave man and most people will hope that this venerable figure, long in the vanguard of the beginning of a real unity of intent among Italian politicians.

The fact remains however that he was elected for reasons which do not begin and end with his personal qualities. The country's leading party, the Christian Democrats, did not have a winning candidate of their own. Signor Pertini would undoubtedly have been President had he not been murdered. After his death the Christian Democrats felt that the presidential palace was theirs, by right.

But the previous holder of the post, Senator Giovanni Leone, had to resign last month six months before the end of his mandate amid allegations of involvement in the Lockheed bribery scandal and of tax evasion.

Signor Pertini referred in his speech to his predecessor's present "bitter solitude". And so the party's moral claim was diminished.

The Socialists exploited the situation to the full and demanded the presidential palace for themselves, proposing Antonio Giolitti, the EEC Commissioner.

Both the Christian Democrats and the powerful Communist Party agreed to accept a Socialist who was not the Socialist Party's official candidate. And an early yesterday agreement was made.

It did not please the right wing of the Christian Democratic Party, who were still muttering today that the post should have gone to a Christian Democrat.

The Communists are in general pleased because the election represented the "united front" including themselves which they constantly seek. But they are aware of Signor Pertini's independence of judgment and would probably have preferred another candidate.

At least the Government looks unscathed for the moment. The Cabinet met briefly today to offer a token resignation as a gesture of respect for the full knowledge that it would be rejected.

Rome, July 9.—Only the neo-fascists failed to pay tribute to the new President, who spent 14 years in jail under fascist rule and in 1944 was condemned to death in absentia by the Nazis.

Outside parliament he was greeted by a crowd of thousands. Profile, page 12

Gaps in ex-judge's memory of death sentences  
From Gretel Spitzer  
Berlin, July 9  
Growing criticism, uneasiness within the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and demands to resign have made Dr Hans Filbinger, Prime Minister of Baden-Württemberg, all the more determined to stay in office and defend his involvement in death sentences he passed as a judge in the years after the Second World War.

Interrupting his holiday in Switzerland, he discussed the situation with the leadership of the Baden-Württemberg CDU yesterday. At a press conference he asked to be given 20 or 45 minutes' television and radio time to explain in detail the significance of sentences passed by naval courts after Germany's unconditional surrender.

His explanations to the party caused his political friends to reaffirm their confidence in him. They said he deceived neither the public nor his own party when he did not recall the death sentences he passed.

Dr Filbinger said that, even right after the war, he had not remembered any death sentences. After being shown, early this May, the photocopy of a death sentence, he spent days and nights in an intensive search of his memory, trying to recall whether he might have signed it.

"However, after 33 years, my memory has gaps," he said.

Two more death sentences passed by Dr Filbinger have become known. The sentences were not carried out; Dr Filbinger called them "phantom sentences".

With the exception of the Berlin branch of the CDU, the party has come out in full defence of Dr Filbinger. There is little doubt, however, that his alleged memory lapses have become more and more embarrassing. Some members of the party wonder whether it will be well advised to present him once more as a candidate in local and state elections in 1979 or 1980.

In the more immediate future, the impact of the "Filbinger case" on the state elections in Hesse on October 8 will have to be seen.

Herr Alfred Dregger, chairman of the Hesse CDU, who was again elected yesterday to lead the party in the election by 412 of the 416 delegates, reiterated his determination to break "33 years" of Social Democratic rule" in Hesse.

Czech papers play down tennis victory  
Prague, July 9.—Czechoslovakia's official press carried extensive coverage of the Wimbledon tennis tournament yesterday but buried the news that Martina Navratilova, a self-styled Czechoslovak, had beaten the top-seeded American Christine Evert in the women's final on Friday.

To fill the gaps in the coverage, newspapers carried lengthy feature articles related to the history of the Wimbledon championship and one daily printed a single-column photograph of the American loser.

Details of Mrs Navratilova's victory were limited to single paragraphs woven into inside summaries of foreign sports results.—Reuter.

Malta ban on British journalists  
Valletta, July 9.—British journalists have been banned from Malta and a register of other foreign journalists is being planned.

In a circular issue to police, customs and immigration officials on Friday, Mr Dom Mintoff, the Prime Minister, gave no reason for the restriction.

He has notified of treasonable espionage after the publication of his book on an alternative to existing socialism. It has been widely acclaimed by socialists in the West.

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East Berlin jails object for five years  
From Our Correspondent  
Berlin, July 9  
A five-year prison term imposed on Herr Nico Hubner, a spokesman for East Berlin actionists, last Friday has been called a violation of the quadripartite status of Berlin by spokesmen in Bonn and West Berlin.

A spokesman for the Christian Democratic Union in Bonn demanded that the Western allies should seek Herr Hubner's release and that the case should be taken up by Mr Cyrus Vance, the American Secretary of State, when he meets Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, in Geneva this week.

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## OVERSEAS

## Mr Davies says Britain should play an active role in organizing election in Rhodesia

Mr Davies made it clear that although the Tories now have a substantial difference of opinion with the Government over its policy on Rhodesia, he is far from advocating all-out support for the internal agreement.

The feeling among Rhodesian people themselves is that the internal agreement is simply not credible. The Salisbury Government has not got on with the job of dismantling discriminatory race laws, and really getting to grips with the terrorist problem, and of setting up an election. Mr Smith has got the message as well as anyone.

Mr Davies said that in a long talk with Mr Smith, he had put these points to him, but it was not Mr Smith alone who had to act, but all four ministers concerned.

Mr Davies's first impression after seeing Mr Nkomo, joint leader of the Patriotic Front, was that the price he was asking for dropping his outright hostility to the removal was unlikely to be paid. But after going to Rhodesia and talking to political leaders there, he felt there was a possibility they might pay it. "They might make sufficient compromises perhaps to attract Mr Nkomo. The emphasis is on 'perhaps'."

If it proved impossible to reach an agreement, Mr Davies said, the alternative was either to support something which was imperfect but which aimed at majority rule by an election, or to stand and fight to the finish.

In the end, if faced with this stark alternative, we would have to opt for the former."

Mr Davies warned the Rhodesians against expecting sanctions could be lifted immediately. But if they were close to holding a genuine election by the time the order renewing sanctions fell due in November, the Conservatives would not support it.

Our Salisbury correspondent writes: A Rhodesian minister criticized the Organization of African Unity today for not allowing a seven-man delegation from Salisbury to attend the present OAU conference in Khartoum.

Dr Elliott Gaballah, Co-minister for Foreign Affairs, said that the expulsion had been made despite earlier assurances that supporters of the internal settlement would have an equal chance to present their case to the OAU, along with the guerrilla organizations.

The names of the Salisbury delegates were not released.

## Christians and Syrians threaten all-out war

From Christopher Walker

Beirut, July 9

The danger of a full-scale military showdown between Lebanese Christian militias and the Syrian-dominated Arab deterrent force increased today as leading spokesmen for both sides issued deliberately belligerent and uncompromising statements about the immediate future.

The public sabre-rattling came as one of the tensest periods in the country's recent history, with President Sarkis still considering his possible resignation and mounting international concern that the renewal of last week's bloody street fighting could quickly escalate into a clash between Syria and Israel.

In an interview with The Times, Mr Dory Chamoun, son of the former Lebanese President, Mr Camille Chamoun, and one of the most influential Christian leaders, claimed that the right-wing militias were prepared to fight an indefinite guerrilla war against the 30,000 Syrian soldiers now based in Lebanon.

"We would rather die honourably than end up as Syrian stooges," he told me at his temporary military headquarters some miles north of Beirut. "We will continue to fight as long as there are foreign elements, either Syrian or Palestinian, left carrying arms on Lebanese soil."

Dressed in khaki battle fatigues and talking with an impeccable English accent acquired during his public school education in Somerset, Mr Chamoun said: "We have no alternative but to go on fighting. We do not seem to be any question of a compromise as the Syrians are apparently determined to try to wipe us out completely and achieve their long-standing aim of establishing a greater Syria."

Up until now we have not given them all we have got in terms of weaponry, but things are fast approaching the point of no return. Luckily Syria is not an oil rich state, so some Western countries and even moderate Arab regimes are beginning to listen to our cries for help. They are starting to realize that what is happening in Lebanon today could easily backfire in their own countries."

Today Mr Chamoun did nothing to disguise his total disdain for the military capabilities of the Syrians and hinted without saying so many words that his militia forces were confident of receiving Israeli support.



Mr Anatoly Shcharansky (left) and Mr Alexander Ginzburg, whose trials open today.

## Dissident activities which led to Shcharansky and Ginzburg trials

From Michael Binyon

Moscow, July 9

The trials of two dissidents open in the Soviet Union tomorrow. Alexander Ginzburg is to be tried in Khabarovsk, 100 miles south of Moscow, on charges of anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda. Anatoly Shcharansky will be tried in Moscow, accused of high treason in the form of espionage.

Alexander Ginzburg has been a dissident almost half his life and has twice served terms in labour camps for his activities. His name was already appearing regularly in hand-produced Samizdat journals as far back as 1960, five years before Dr Andrei Sakharov began to gain fame as a dissident.

Born in 1936, Mr Ginzburg began his dissident work in 1958, when at the age of 22 he produced the Samizdat poetry journal Syntex. Two years later he was arrested for "forging a certificate in order to sit an examination on behalf of a friend", but his two-year sentence was almost certainly for his Samizdat work.

Two years after his release the charge of "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda" was the same charge for which he goes on trial tomorrow—levelling at him, but was eventually dropped.

In 1966 Mr Ginzburg compiled a "white book", a collection of material on the important 1965 trial of two writers, Andrei Sinyavsky and Yuli Daniel, and he was arrested again the following year. In January, 1968 he was tried and sentenced to five years' imprisonment.

He served the first part of his sentence in corrective labour colonies in Mordovia, several hundred miles south of Moscow. During this time he managed to get permission to marry a university language teacher, Arina Zhukovskaya, but his protests about bad prison conditions led then to his transfer to the harsh Vladimir prison. On his release in 1972 he was obliged to live in Tatars, 60 miles away from Moscow and his family.

In 1974 Mr Ginzburg took on an activity that will inevitably be brought up at tomorrow's trial: the administration of a fund set up by Alexander Solzhenitsyn for the relief of political prisoners and their families.

His final role, for which he was arrested on March 3, 1977, was as a founder member of the group attempting to monitor Soviet compliance with the human rights provision of the Helsinki accords.

Anatoly Shcharansky is, at 30, the youngest of the three Moscow-based Helsinki dissidents on trial this summer. At the time of his arrest, 17 months ago, he was far less known within dissident circles both in the Soviet Union and abroad than either Dr Yuri Orlov or Mr Ginzburg.

Since then, however, he has become perhaps the most famous cause célèbre due partly to the seriousness of the charge—espionage—now hanging over him, partly to his links with the Jewish community and partly to the close contacts he had with Western correspondents.

Mr Shcharansky, a computer engineer, is a "refusenik"—one of those Jews refused an emigration visa to Israel. His dissident activities date from 1973, when his visa application was turned down on the ground that his background in computer programming gave him access to state secrets.

He made no secret of his activities, saying that he was doing nothing illegal. He joined Dr Orlov's Helsinki group as a representative of the Jewish community, but his main function was as a liaison with the Western Press.

His friendship in particular with Robert Roth, the Los Angeles Times correspondent, was one of the subjects on which Mr Roth was questioned closely by the KGB before being allowed to leave the Soviet Union.

Mr Shcharansky was arrested three times for 15 days' administrative detention for disturbing the peace—the first time when President Nixon visited Moscow in June, 1974.

After his release the third time he had only two days in which to marry his fiancée, Natasha Siglits, who had applied for an emigration visa and was obliged to leave the country by the specified date or lose her visa. They were married in a Jewish religious ceremony.

## Mr Begin's appeal to world over dissenters

Jerusalem, July 9.—Israel appealed to governments around the world today to intervene on behalf of the Jewish dissident Mr Anatoly Shcharansky, whose trial on treason charges opens in Russia tomorrow, along with that of Mr Alexander Ginzburg, another Soviet dissident, who is accused of anti-Soviet propaganda.

Mr Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister, said after the Israeli Cabinet held a discussion about Mr Shcharansky that the life of the human rights activist was in real danger.

"The lives and the freedom of men who are in danger under a totalitarian regime are not an internal problem and they are of interest to every free woman and man," Mr Begin said.

A Cabinet statement called on "parliamentary men of knowledge and good will all over the world to intervene and act urgently in order to save and free Anatoly Shcharansky."

Paris: Mrs Avital Shcharansky flew into Paris from Tel Aviv today and appealed to the French Government to make "forceful representations" to Russia for the release of her husband. She plans to go on to Washington in several days to meet American officials.

Several hours before she arrived, about 100 people demonstrated in front of Notre Dame Cathedral for the two dissidents. The protesters included the French Communist Party intellectual, Jean Elie Stein.

At the same time, the French Socialist Party said that Mr Shcharansky could not be convicted for claiming rights recognized by the Helsinki agreement on human rights, of which the Soviet Union is a signatory.

London: Several hundred people from two Jewish groups marched on the Soviet Embassy in London today and handed in a protest against the trials.

"The only hope for these people is that the West will not allow the Soviet Union to get away with such callous injustice," said a statement issued by the National Council for Soviet Jewry and the Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry.

Bonn: About a dozen people demonstrated outside the Soviet Embassy here today demanding the release of the two dissidents.

A spokesman for the Frankfurt Society for Human Rights said that Mr Ginzburg's wife had been told by a prison official that his trial had been delayed because of his health.

The Hague: The Dutch Government has expressed concern about the Soviet drive against dissidents and described the prospect of new trials as a threat to détente and "highly regrettable."

## killed by

Correspondent

July 9

A 110 people have died after an earthquake in Afghanistan, it was reported today. The province was worst hit with more than 100 killed.

In said massive relief were under way.

's North-West Frontier has also been hard hit by monsoon rains on 26 deaths reported in two days.

have been called out to help the victims.

800 houses have been by floods or landslides and thousands of people have been displaced.

in high floods in rivers, cutting the main link between Quetta and Rawalpindi. Roads have been severed.

## South Africa frees Swapo men for talks on Namibia

From Nicholas Ashford

Johannesburg, July 9

South Africa has released from detention two senior members of the internal wing of the South-West Africa People's Organization (Swapo) to enable them to attend tomorrow's crucial conference in Luanda on the Western settlement plan for Namibia.

The Rev. Festus Nabelo, Swapo's secretary for foreign affairs, and Mr Frans Kamungula, its secretary for transport, left Windhoek for Luanda today in an aircraft provided by the United States. They were accompanied by Miss Lucy Hamwenya, the organization's legal secretary, and Mr Hendrik Witbooi, the secretary for culture and education.

Mr Witbooi was released from detention a week ago; since then he has been confined to Gibeon, a small town in the south of the territory.

The two detainees were released on the orders of Mr Justice Martinus Steyn, the South African-appointed Administrator-General of South-West Africa, on condition that they returned to detention after the Luanda meeting. It is understood their release followed a request by the embassies of Britain and the United States.

Freeing them is seen as an attempt by South Africa to create a helpful climate at the Luanda talks where the five Western nations are making a final attempt to get Swapo to accept their settlement plan.

Mr R. F. Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, made it clear in Windhoek at the weekend that South Africa was not prepared to consider any amendments to these proposals that might be suggested by Swapo.

The feeling in Pretoria is that there is a better-than-even chance that Swapo will accept the Western plan, partly because of the pressure that the first "front-line" states are understood to be exerting on Swapo.

## Tories accuse Mr Jay of party propaganda aim

By Our Political Staff

The Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary are to be questioned in the Commons by Conservatives about the decision to remove Mr Laurence O'Keefe, head of the British Information Service in New York, and to restrict the staff and the scope of BIS there.

Mr Douglas Hurd, MP for Mid Oxon, and a front bench spokesman on foreign affairs, said in a BBC radio interview yesterday that it appeared that Mr Peter Jay, the Ambassador in Washington, was proposing that BIS should be limited to providing British Government handouts.

The BIS in the past had a high reputation because it provided a genuine picture of Britain as a place where there was a lot of argument. A BIS bulletin reviewing the British press and the media reflected diverse opinions.

"If it really is true that Mr Jay is trying to put the clock back and make our information

services just give out Government handouts, he will have to be stopped," Mr Hurd said.

Mr Robert Adley (Christchurch and Lynton, Con), is tabling a question to Dr David Owen, Foreign Secretary, about the plan to remove Mr O'Keefe when he is only half-way through what was expected to be a four-year term.

Mr Adley said: "The arrogant Mr Jay is trying to get the staff at the BIS office to be all people who share his political views. He is seeking to censor news from Britain. Having failed, he turns his venom on the head of the office. He must be made aware of the Employment Protection Act."

"He may be Mr Callaghan's son-in-law, but he cannot behave like Caesar's son."

In his questions to Dr Owen, Mr Adley will be asking what discussions the Foreign Secretary had on the matter with Mr Jay.

Letters, page 13

## UN envoy defends Cuba's involvement in Africa

Nairobi, July 9.—Growing Cuban involvement in Africa is the continent's "greatest asset" and in keeping with United Nations precepts, Mr Leslie Harriman, chairman of the United Nations anti-apartheid committee, said here today.

He attacked President Carter and Western nations for their African policies, alleging interference in African affairs and "double standards" over the issue of independence struggles in southern Africa.

"On almost a daily basis, Carter has been expressing concern over Cuba's role in Africa," Mr Harriman said in an interview with the Nairobi Times.

Were it not for Cubans, Mozambique and Angola would still be under the firm yoke of the colonialists.

"Cubans have never attacked any sovereign state or crossed any internationally recognized

boundary. What they have done is to assist oppressed people."

"The Cuban role is well supported in the United Nations charter on decolonization."

In addition to heading the anti-apartheid committee, Mr Harriman is Nigeria's permanent representative at the United Nations and chairman of special United Nations committees on peace-keeping operations.

He accused the United States and other Western powers of "arrogance" and not thinking "seriously enough" on issues of independence and black majority rule in Rhodesia and Namibia (South-West Africa).

"There would be no Namibian or Rhodesian problem, but for South Africa," he said. "The best thing to do is to bring all pressure to bear by strictly observing oil and economic sanctions against South Africa." —AP.

## Colorado crops attacked by grasshoppers

Denver, July 9.—Billions of grasshoppers have invaded eastern Colorado and are eating their way through crops of maize, sugarbeet and soybeans.

Governor Richard Lamm has declared eastern Colorado a disaster emergency area and has called a special session of the state legislature for tomorrow to discuss ways to fight the grasshopper menace.

Other states, including Wyoming, Nebraska and Kansas, are also spraying vast areas with insecticides to try to prevent the invasion from spreading.

## Suspected Nazi criminal in mental hospital

Rio de Janeiro, July 9.—Herr Guislar Franz Wagner, the Austrian suspected of responsibility for the extermination of at least 130,000 Jews during the Second World War, was reported today to be under treatment at a psychiatric hospital near Brasilia.

Herr Wagner, whose extradition is being sought by West Germany, was said to be confined in a room with barred windows.

A source at the hospital said: "He has lost the will to live; refuses medication and, when it is forced on him, his body rejects it."

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OVERSEAS

# Mr Singh cancels rally as a conciliatory gesture to his party

Delhi, July 9.—Peace-makers trying to resolve a crisis in the ruling Janata Party, said tonight that Mr. Ravi Singh, the party's general secretary, had withdrawn his resignation, but Mr. Singh told reporters later that this was not so.

He told the Press Trust of India news agency that friends had tried to persuade him to withdraw his resignation which had made a week ago in support of Mr. Chavan Singh, the ousted Home Minister. He said tonight, however, that so far as he was concerned, his resignation was still in effect.

Later, Mr. Singh announced the cancellation of a rally to protest against his dismissal, after renewed efforts by several cabinet ministers to avert a split in the party.

In a statement, he said: "I have made it clear from the very beginning of the present crisis that I shall extend my utmost efforts to preserve the unity and solidarity of the party."

Mr. Singh and Mr. Reg Narain, Health Minister, his chief supporter, were dismissed on June 21 after differences between Mr. Singh and Mr. Morarji Desai, the Prime Minister, became public.

The protest rally was to have taken place on July 17, among farmers in Mr. Singh's power base in the northern states.

Mr. Singh today warned his supporters that any move leading to a break-up of the Janata Party would help the Congress Party.

It was partly Mr. Singh's demand for the immediate arrest of Mrs. Indira Gandhi, the former Prime Minister, over her 18-month emergency rule that led to his dismissal and the crisis in the Janata Party.

Cabinet members acting as peace-makers had hoped that, if Mr. Singh withdrew his resignation, it might lead to a reconciliation with Mr. Desai, who is on a visit to London today, and Mr. Singh's resignation of a few days ago.

Mr. Desai said yesterday he was prepared to meet Mr. Singh if the former Home Minister initiated the meeting. Mr. Singh was dismissed after he criticized the Government for failing to prosecute Mrs. Gandhi.

Since his dismissal, however, he has mentioned other differences dividing him from Mr. Desai. Political sources say they doubt whether the two men could be reconciled permanently.

Four junior ministers in the Janata Government have resigned in protest at the dismissal of Mr. Singh and Mr. Narain.

Events in the party at one stage threatened to develop into a split and afford an opportunity for a comeback by Mrs. Gandhi.

Mr. Desai told a rally of Janata Party workers in Jaipur today, however, that the party would stage off the crisis and declared there was no possibility of it breaking up.

Those who worked for the break-up of the Janata Party will themselves disintegrate, he said—Reuters.

## Prisoners of conscience



### Romania: Nicolae Ighisan

By Clifford Longley

A distinguished band of political prisoners in East Europe and the Soviet Union have suffered under both fascist and communist regimes for their political or religious beliefs. Such a prisoner is Dr. Nicolae Ighisan, aged 66, a medical practitioner who was jailed in 1941 for opposing the fascist government of General Ion Antonescu and has hardly been out of trouble since.

He was released in 1944 with the downfall of Antonescu. In 1953 he was arrested for producing leaflets complaining at the lack of civil liberty of the communist authorities, and accused of having been a member of the fascist Iron Guard which his old opponent Antonescu had set up.

He was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment, and released after 11 years under a general amnesty together with about 12,000 other political prisoners.

That was in 1964, and he was suffering at the time from a serious liver complaint. Some years later he applied with another man for permission to leave his native Romania.

They had both belonged to the Peasant Party before the war, and were old friends. They stated as their reason for wanting to leave that they had been harassed by the state security police, and experienced professional discrimination.

They were turned down. In 1970 Dr. Ighisan was arrested again, and charged with anti-state propaganda and illegal possession of foreign currency. He was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment.

He had continued during his freedom to make criticisms of the restrictions in Romania, and this was the basis of the charge of propaganda. He was tried and sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment.

He is believed to be in prison either at Aiud or Gherla. It is understood that because of his liver complaint he was excused prison labour and transferred to the prison hospital in 1977.

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## Hanoi claims battalion is wiped out

Hongkong, July 9.—Vietnamese forces wiped out an entire battalion of invading Cambodian troops in a border clash two days ago, the Vietnam news agency claimed today.

In a report monitored here it said that the Vietnamese forces "put out of action" more than 350 Cambodian soldiers and seized large quantities of arms in the clash near Xa Mat, in Tay Ninh province north-west of Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) on Friday.

The fighting was the heaviest reported by either side since the upsurge last month in the protracted border struggle between the communist neighbours. Hanoi denied Western reports that it had launched a big offensive against Cambodia, sending troops across the border.

Bangkok: Cambodia hit out today at what it called "Vietnamese aggressors" and "reactionaries" in a district on the Cambodian side of the border with Thailand, where it said Cambodian troops had beaten an attack led by the Vietnamese.

The team "reactionaries" refers to Thai security forces, Cambodian refugees in the region and rebel nationalist groups.

## Australia adding to coast patrols

Canberra, July 9.—Australia today announced plans to increase air and sea patrols along its long, sparsely populated northern coast to combat unauthorized Indo-Chinese refugee landings and increased drug smuggling.

The plans are also aimed at controlling quarantine breaches and enforcing the nation's fisheries laws after the expected declaration of Australia's 200-mile fishing zone later this year.

—Reuters.

## Bulgaria holds back on Balkan links

From Mario Modiano, Athens, July 9

The visit of Mr. Constantine Karamanlis, the Greek Prime Minister, to Bulgaria has provoked bilateral cooperation between the two countries, but also confirmed their opposition to Bulgaria's participation in multilateral Balkan ventures remains strong.

Mr. George Rallis, the Greek Foreign Minister, said that progress had been made on the issue of the joint exploitation of the river Nestos, and on proposals for the joint marketing of Greek and Bulgarian tobacco and minerals.

However, Mr. Karamanlis's initiative for broad economic and technical cooperation between Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Turkey, Yugoslavia

## Henry Moore: 'Before these works I sit and ponder'



Times Interview

It has been a distracting period for Henry Moore, who normally works eight or nine hours a day, including Sundays. There have been all those exhibitions opening to celebrate his eightieth birthday on July 30. And on top of it, there has been Wimbledon to watch on television.

He used to play tennis a good deal when he lived in Hampstead, he recalled in an interview at his home in Hertfordshire. "Sculptors have to be physically active people. You can't be a sculptor unless you like using your muscles." He was himself a physical training instructor for two years of the First World War. Beneath instruction was his speciality. "I remember what an act one used to put on of being tough. There was a strenuous battle course with jumping, running, a trench and a sandbagged machine gun. He used to urge the recruits to do it viciously, shouting something like 'You bloody bastards'—the while. One very polite and gentle subaltern could manage only: 'Bother you' after a feeble stab.

Moore still fit and vigorous, but limping from an ankle broken in a fall a few years ago, has lived in the same house at Perry Green, near Much Hadham since 1940, when his Hampstead studio was made unusable by the blast from a nearby bomb. He has since moved to a new studio in a room in the Elizabethan original. It is an exciting room full of books, pictures, including fine late works by Courbet and Degas, and two lovely Vuillards, small bronze sculptures, primitive carvings, dried gourds and polished stones, one on other of which he rubs as we talked.

Outside he has gradually acquired neighbouring land, to a point where he nowadays uses an old Rover ("it can save five minutes") to trundle down to the cottage of his son, where the plastic-covered one he and a neighbour built on Meccano principles to provide outside light all the year around.

"If you make a sculpture which is going to be seen all its life in the open air, it is wise to make it under the conditions in which it is going to be seen, not in a studio where the light is directional, rather than from 'sky', he said. He also draws a goldfish analogy: they stay small in small bowls, grow big in ponds. Every summer he goes to do some carving at Forte dei Marmi, near the quarry where his beloved Michelangelo (Benvenuto and Canova are other favourites) found some of his marble.

When one asks, justifiably, how he has remained so unscathed, he says: "Whatever has come has come so slowly. I didn't earn a living out of my sculpture until I was 42."

My first exhibition, at the Warren Gallery in 1928, made £90. That was three years' work, but the rent I had to pay to the gallery owner for my studio was more than that. My exhibition at the Leicester Galleries in 1931—another three years' work—made £120. Jacob Epstein bought my work there and wrote a marvellous foreword to the catalogue. I still remember the first line: "Before these works I sit and ponder."

"He made my path so easy, compared to what his was. He took all the bricks, all the scullery. It embarrassed him. One owes a great deal to Epstein's fight for sculpture in England. In his day, sculpture was so unusual that if anyone did anything other than pure Greek or Renaissance realism, it was thought to be 'competent'. Epstein and Augustus John were probably the only two non-academic artists then able to live from their work, without teaching or private incomes.

But apart from his parents ("who were so good and wonderful") and his wife, Irene, he never owes most to Sir William Rothenstein, as he became, who took over as principal of the Royal College of Art when Moore

went there on a scholarship from Leeds School of Art. The son of a rich wool merchant, Rothenstein had lived in Paris, known Degas and Oscar Wilde, was a close friend of Max Beerbohm and—saw Moore—brought a whole new attitude to the RCA. He recognized Moore's talent and gave him a well-paid (£240 a year) part-time teaching job straight from being a student.

"I remember him saying: 'Moore, you've got the ball at your feet.' Rothenstein's outlook, and his belief in him, were a wonderful thing for the young Moore, who spent seven years teaching from the life-figure two days a week at the RCA, and a further eight at Chelsea School of Art.

As far as public recognition was concerned, Moore believes it was his drawing of scenes in the London Underground stations during the blitz, done as a war artist, that made the difference.

He had not been keen to accept the war artist role from Kenneth Clark, then director of the National Gallery. But only night, his little Standard 8 came out of action, he got caught in the Underground. "In all my experience I have never seen such scenes as those in the very first part of the sheltering, when the Londoners took over the Underground. It was almost exactly what one imagined the hold of ships taking slaves from Africa to the American south were like. The next morning I did some sketches. It was terribly exciting. Kenneth Clark saw them and said: 'Now Henry, you can't say you don't want to be a war artist.' The shelter drawings (some are curiously on view at the Tate Gallery and a revelation of his draughtsmanship) were shown at the National Gallery. "I think that made a connexion. It gave me a wider audience, and gave certain people confidence that I could draw if I wanted to."

In 1942, he had a show of drawings

in New York. Since then, he reckons nine-tenths of his work has been sold in the United States; though subsequently the Germans, some other Europeans, and later Japanese have been keen buyers. "England's bought artistically nothing. That's why one has given so much," he laughed, referring to his many bequests, also currently on show at the Tate.

Meanwhile his Russian-born wife Irene, kept him sensible and stopped him doing wild things—like jumping over a five high spiked iron railing, as he once did to her fury for a bet when on holiday with Ben Nicholson and Barbara Hepworth. They met when she was studying painting at the RCA. "She has kept my feet on the ground," he says. They have a daughter, Mary, now married.

Moore does not share the belief that creativity has to spring from inner conflict—Rembrandt and Rubens seem to have been fairly well adjusted, he points out—but prefers not to analyse the workings of his own genius. His read only half through the first chapter of a book by a pupil of Jung called *The Archetypal World of Henry Moore*. Such talk of mother goddesses or whatever can make you try to prove or disprove a point in your work, he says, and he does not want to be explained.

What he does believe, and it must be one of the keys to his happiness and warmth as a person and sculptor, is that art exists to make us all live more fully. When dining with Shirley Williams, the Education Secretary, who lives in the area, he thought of urging that drawing should be regarded as a more important lesson in education than it is. "Not so much because you want children to be artists, but to make people look more intensely. Everyone thinks they look, but they don't. All the arts are for developing our experience of life through our senses."

Roger Berthoud

## The dream that went sour at Pentonville

The visitors' centre, Pentonville, stands 30 yards from the prison gates, a converted off-licence leased from the Balmoral Castle public house next door. What the telephone bank gave, in January 1971 they opened their converted shop to visitors, every day an hour before visiting time, and kept it open afterwards, for any problems that may have arisen.

The plan was quite simple to allow visitors to bypass an archaic system of queues and waiting, lasting between half and two hours, by setting up a telephone link with prison officers. The centre told the prison who had arrived, there were no queues in the rain, no screaming babies.

The good times lasted some years. Prison officers came to the centre's meetings and discussed problems; and, more importantly, the centre was used. Ten thousand people came through one year alone, stretching the capacity of the small room in the off-licence, and the energy of its six founders and their 30 volunteer helpers to their very limit. They even opened the centre for people wanting to meet released prisoners at 7.30 in the morning.

Then, five years after it had opened, the dream went sour. The goodwill of the prison officers, on whom the entire system rested, turned first to prickliness, then to hostility. The daily log of the centre makes depressing reading: a long saga of difficulties over petty telephone extensions, sudden petty regulations introduced at the last minute, a gradual withdrawal of sympathy and cooperation. At the beginning of November 1976 in an attempt, as desperate as it was tactless, to get together again, the centre asked visitors to fill in a questionnaire about the timing of their visits. This proved too much. What prison officers once found helpful they now considered interfering; they complained their jobs were being "monitored". "Encroaching" is the work that crops up continually.

has been grand-aided since its opening. The group soon settled on Pentonville, a vast grey Victorian jail in north London with over 1,000 inmates, then the War Office telephone bank gave, in January 1971 they opened their converted shop to visitors, every day an hour before visiting time, and kept it open afterwards, for any problems that may have arisen.

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On Saturday November 6 a meeting of the Prison Officers Association voted to cut off all communication with the centre. On Monday the room was deserted. What the telephone bank gave, in January 1971 they opened their converted shop to visitors, every day an hour before visiting time, and kept it open afterwards, for any problems that may have arisen.

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The centre may not have led to any more visits, but what it did was to make them a little easier, a little more dignified. Such a service is impossible to evaluate, but not a single person I spoke to in the probation service, any of the prison welfare associations, did not mourn its closure. It is, said several of them, far worse than a loss. With Pentonville gone, there are just five similar schemes left. The fate of this one makes the opening of others all the more unlikely.

What has happened at Pentonville also shows, with extreme clarity, the power of prison officers, a power that neither the Home Office, who openly supported the centre, nor the governor, who fought hard for its survival, are able to challenge. "The governor's role," said a Home Office spokesman this week, "does not extend to schemes of this sort run by voluntary organizations". Strictly with the Home Office, law. But in anything peripheral—education, visits, welfare—he is helpless. If the prison officers don't like something, there is nothing he can do about it. What he can do is his frustration and insecurity take next.

About Pentonville prison itself there is just one thing to add. Six weeks ago the new visiting room opened; according to a woman visitor it has no toys, no books, and one ashtray. The room above, which the centre was to have occupied, is empty. The Prison Officers Association at Pentonville say that they have asked the WRVS to "come in and assist with children" and that their welfare liaison group (prison officers and probation officers) can do this top room actually put to proper use, with real provision for mothers and children, and some sort of advice and counselling, then clearly it could do all the centre has done. The trouble is, no one believes it will be.

Caroline Moorehead











ly Cliff Temple :

**Edwin Moses : an elegant display of strong fluid hurdling on his first visit to Britain.**

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Lord Chalfont

# The Chinese may be right

After even a short visit to China's western border region, it becomes much easier to understand the almost obsessive concern with the Russian military threat. The Sinkiang-Uighur Autonomous region covers one-sixth of the Chinese land mass. It is one of five autonomous regions in China and among its 11 million people are 13 national minorities, each speaking its own language (although the schools, the radio and the press use only three of them in addition to Han, the majority language of the Chinese people). The region is divided by the Tien Shan, the heavenly mountains—a great 12,000ft snow-covered range running east-west and north-east from the Pamirs not as majestic as the Himalayas, but dramatically beautiful in the summer sun. Sinkiang is rich in oil and minerals and it has an extensive nuclear testing site in the desert near the Lop Nor. It also has, and this is what worries the Chinese, 1,200 miles of border with the Soviet Union which has been a subject of bitter dispute for many years. And along which at least 500,000 Russian mechanized troops now face Sinkiang. The revolutionary committee in Urumchi, the capital of the region, complains of constant Russian provocation—the sudden occupation of land occupied by Chinese farmers, military manoeuvres of up to regimental strength in disputed areas, incursions by reconnaissance aircraft, monitoring of telephone conversations and transmission of "black" propaganda by radio. They are convinced that the Russian aim is to detach Sinkiang from the rest of China and eventually to bring it under Soviet control, and they

believe that if the Russians cannot achieve this by any other means they will be prepared to try to do so by armed force—with the inevitable consequence of a Sino-Russian war. The inevitability of war—not only in Sinkiang, but elsewhere in the world, lies at the heart of contemporary Chinese strategic doctrine. Simply stated, the argument is that the Russians are determined to achieve world domination or "hegemony". If those who are in a position to resist their policies—China, the United States, Japan and western Europe—were prepared to surrender without a war, but they are not prepared to surrender, therefore, sooner or later, war will come. It can, the Chinese say, be postponed if all those who are threatened are prepared to resist Russian aggression wherever it appears, but in the last analysis it is the Soviet Union, and no-one else, who will decide when to go to war. How much of this reflects a genuinely pessimistic view of the future, and how much is psychological warfare designed to concentrate the mind on the Russian threat, it is hard to say. When I put this point to one Chinese leader in Peking he firmly repudiated any suggestion of pessimism. "We are", he said, "revolutionary optimists. When the war comes, we shall win."

This basically sombre premise leads the Chinese to a number of inescapable conclusions. So far as the physical defence of their own territory against a Russian attack is concerned the classical doctrine of the people's war remains substantially valid. The idea is to allow the Russian forces to

**The Chinese describe  
Nato doctrine as a policy  
of appeasement to the  
Soviet Union... which thinks  
it can pursue aggressive policies  
virtually unhindered**

penetrate deep into China, to stretch their lines of communication, and then to "slam the door" and destroy the invader. "It is difficult," said vice-premier Li Hsien Nien, in one of his Long March metaphors, "to beat a dog when it is running wild." He went on to say, in a phrase possibly intended more for dramatic effect than as a specific reflection of operational planning, that if the Soviet Union attacked the People's Republic the Chinese would be prepared to let them occupy all the land north of the Yellow River before turning to destroy them.

In a more detailed discussion of Chinese strategy, General Wu Shu-Chan, Deputy Chief of the Chinese General Staff, explained that the field armies of the People's Liberation Army—the centrally controlled element of the armed forces—were ready to be sent to any part of China threatened by attack. In the meantime any invading force would have been engaged by one or more of the regionally controlled armies of the PLA in the 29 provinces, and also by the militia—a force of over 200 million with basic military training, of which some are provided with rudimentary equipment. The enemy, "sub-

merged in the vast ocean of the Chinese people", would then be counter-attacked by the field armies, and destroyed. In all this, the strategically vital areas of China, a network of tunnels has been built—not so much to provide nuclear bomb-shelters, as to provide communications, and logistic support for the people's war. Tunnel warfare has a long history in the defence of China.

The programme of modernization of the People's Liberation Army, now envisaged the grating of modern equipment on to these traditional techniques. In discussions with General Wu and other Chinese leaders, a reasonably clear picture began to emerge. There is no intention of trying to convert the PLA overnight into a modern mechanized force with a great array of main battle tanks, modern artillery, ground attack aircraft and battlefield nuclear missiles. It would be prohibitively expensive, and in any case this kind of military establishment is regarded by the Chinese as aggressive in character. Their concern, they insist, is purely to defend their country against attack and by the end of the century to modernize their forces for this purpose. Given the economic prob-

lems of China, its vast land mass, the enormous pool of manpower for the most part unsophisticated and with only primary education, and the half-forgotten doctrine of the people's war, it is clear that in the modernization of the Chinese armed forces considerable emphasis will be placed on cheap, light and simply operated equipment. The weapons which immediately come to mind are the man-portable missile, both for anti-tank and anti-aircraft defence, light-weight rifles with small-calibre ammunition and medium-flight helicopters. There is, too, one piece of equipment which would be invaluable to the Chinese both for border patrolling in peacetime and for operations in a people's war—a combat aircraft which can land on and take off from small, unprepared airfields or clearings and which can be easily concealed when it is not in the air. The Chinese left me in no doubt that they are very much interested in the British Harrier aircraft, and there were dark mutterings about the danger of the British government "giving in to American pressures". It is, however, not only the matter of transferring technology and equipment that the Western Alliance needs to reassess its policies towards China. There is obviously no question of forming anything like a formal alliance to meet the Soviet threat; playing off one great Communist power against another would be a dangerous game for the West. In any case, the possibility would be rejected out of hand by the Chinese themselves. There is, however, no point in ignoring or concealing the fact that China and the West have many common strategic attitudes and interests.

Neither, it seems, is it capable of conducting an aggressive war against the Soviet Union. On the other hand, feel themselves, not without justification, to be threatened by the Soviet Union. It would seem foolish not to contemplate at least the possibility of regular contacts between the Western Alliance and the People's Republic in the course of which it would quickly be discovered that we each have much of value to contribute to the other's strategic thinking. This leads me to a final crucial element in Chinese strategic thought. Although they have successfully tested a hydrogen bomb and have adequate means of delivering it on targets in the Soviet Union, they have never been the first to use nuclear weapons. This is in direct contrast to the doctrine of Nato, which is based clearly on the threat that nuclear weapons might be used to meet a conventional attack. The Chinese describe this, in an interesting paradox, as "a policy of appeasement". By this they mean that the West is neglecting its military defences, believing that it can rely on the nuclear deterrent. Every one, they say, including the Russians, knows that the West will not be the first to use nuclear weapons, and it is against this background that the Soviet Union calculates that it can pursue its aggressive policies virtually unhindered. It is an interesting proposition, and those who are disposed to reject it out of hand might wish to consider the possibility, however remote, that they might conceivably be wrong.

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President Pertini: an 'immeasurable love of liberty'.

## The 'veteran' who could revitalize Italy

Base is the word much applied to politicians or implied by the term political and Italy's new president can at least claim to have been a bad politician. He said once that the politically ambitious needed to be cold and cynical: "I am not cold" he added, "nor cynical". The politicians who elected him may have gone as far as a self-respecting class could, in choosing a non-member of the "claque", passionate and irritable, consumed with an immeasurable love for liberty and socialism. He is still much the same but his character and his long experience have added some qualifications to this judgement. He spent years in fascist prisons because he was a socialist, worked in frustrating exile as a bricklayer, a car-washer and a film extra, but he has never managed to fit into the factions of the socialists, or the various groups in the period immediately after the war as its secretary. He has, however, never lost the high respect which fellow-socialists feel for him as a personality and this feeling was shown when in June 1968 he was elected to preside over the Chamber of Deputies, a post he held for eight years.

He won a reputation for fairness. He sometimes imposed his authority with the sharp edge of his tongue in clear contrast with the soft-centred Neapolitan riposte which marked Giovanni Leone, who was one of his predecessors both as the chamber's highest official and as President. In October, 1975, Pertini resigned after revelations that employees of the chamber were relatively overpaid. He withdrew his resignation but at least he made a gesture highly unusual in Italian affairs of accepting responsibility. He is old to be facing a seven-year term but he points out that he comes from a long-living family, and the news of his election recalls the saying of the great Pope John XXIII who was also old when chosen to be Pontiff: "You say about old people the same things that we used to say when we were young. And rightly. But one day other young people will be saying the same about you. Certainly there can be no doubt about Pertini's faculties. His speech yesterday was brief and precise. He took off his glasses to read it and survived the obligatory backslapping when it was over like an oak in a breeze.

No one could challenge his integrity and honesty. Just as few can challenge his record as an organizer of the resistance to Fascism and the Germans on which, after all, the republican constitution is supposed to be based. He deplores violence but he was ready to use it in the anti-fascist cause. He was so given to this cause that he could not stand the inactivity of exile and returned secretly to Italy during the dictatorship where he was soon recognized and imprisoned. He escaped twice, the second time narrowly missing threatened death by firing squad. He up-

braided his mother, to whom he was deeply attached, when she wrote to the fascist authorities asking that he be released from prison because of bad health. He promptly wrote to the authorities dissociating himself from the appeal. His mother was a practicing Catholic and ecclesiastical opinion is today finding reassurance not only in the old socialist's reputation for fairness but also in his unpublished action of helping finance restoration of the church where his mother used to pray. All this could be written off as old-fashioned, but the values he stands for are now beginning to look fresh again. He is a long time since they were the stuff of a grand old man, a "claque", passionate and irritable, consumed with an immeasurable love for liberty and socialism. He is still much the same but his character and his long experience have added some qualifications to this judgement. He spent years in fascist prisons because he was a socialist, worked in frustrating exile as a bricklayer, a car-washer and a film extra, but he has never managed to fit into the factions of the socialists, or the various groups in the period immediately after the war as its secretary. He has, however, never lost the high respect which fellow-socialists feel for him as a personality and this feeling was shown when in June 1968 he was elected to preside over the Chamber of Deputies, a post he held for eight years.

The seventh President is a northerner from the town of Stella near Savona, where he was born on September 27, 1896 to a family of small landowners. His father died when he was young and he was brought up by his mother. He studied to be a lawyer, went to fight in the First World War, was wounded, and then returned to continue his studies and his attachment to socialism. He was arrested for the first time in 1925 when, after Matteotti's murder, he was charged with "violence to the Republic". He was released after a few days. He will no longer be able to meet his enemies in quite the headlong fashion of his youth. If for no other reason, the enemies of democracy in Italy today are less easily identifiable than they were when Pertini was young. He has to give a lead to a country worried by violence and violence much less attributable than in the past: by disillusion after swift development; by a loss of old values and a failure to find new ones; by an over-concentrated political scene which is no longer black and white.

A man of his devotion to the left will have to face pragmatically the great issue of the role of the Communist Party which helped him yesterday to his electoral triumph. He has great admiration for Gramsci, Italian communist's most original leader whom he met when they were both prisoners of the fascists. In a recent interview, he talked of Gramsci as "the most powerful political brain that I have known in my political career." At the same time, he has stood by the claim of the Socialist Party to be the natural leader of the left.

Peter Nichols

## Searching for the six million votes

Eric Moonman

Six million people voted for a third party in 1974, most of them for the Liberals. It is a reflection not only of the weaknesses but also the strength of the two-party system. Neither the Labour nor the Tory Party has attempted to investigate this remarkable vote, possibly because they recognize that even between them they cannot meet the needs of every voter in our society. On the other hand, it could be said to show an arrogance, certainly some cynicism, towards what those six million voters were saying or asking for. So, in the absence of any evidence that either the Government or the Opposition intend to look into the matter, let me draw some conclusions for them to ponder.

First, the six million who voted Liberal did so because they did not want the extremists of either the right or left in control. If we think back to February 1974 their fears seem less wild than they do today: the Heath Government had clashed head-on with the unions by waging a hard in-flexible attitude that, in turn, brought to the fore the left-wing of the Labour Party, which promised to be equally intractable.

No wonder the electorate ran from both, giving the minority parties an unexpected importance. The Tories appear to be looking back on those days with some nostalgia, but it is crucial that the Labour Party understands this aspect of the 1974 elections because while the extreme left is in

real terms absurdly small in number, it is loud in shouting and strong on getting itself into places where it can be heard. Secondly, the electorate was showing its frustration with the failure of successive governments to deliver their promises. The affluent fifties had led to a rise in the level of public aspirations and Harold Macmillan's arousement, when myths are sure like confetti, recognized this at an early stage. He was not the only one; there were scores of catch-phrases at the time which reflected and encouraged belief in an ever-rising standard of living and the ordinary person's right both to expect and enjoy this new life-style. But in the end that attractive political slogan, "You've never had it so good" became a noose for politicians.

For neither party could deliver what was expected of it, and neither party was prepared to admit it. In the end the electorate had had enough and the Liberals came in from the cold, to the tune of six million votes, 18 per cent of all votes cast.

Now a general election is almost on us again. How will these six million people vote at all? What do they think of Jim Callaghan, Margaret Thatcher or David Steele, as compared with Harold Wilson, Edward Heath and Jeremy Thorpe? On record, Jim Callaghan is in the Liberals' camp and his leadership has been shown to be sound and the results

remarkable. The economy is picking up, with inflation well under control. The party is likely to remain tight until the end of the year as a result of the third year of voluntary pay restraint. The standard of living is beginning to rise again as a result of tax cuts, and this is being reflected in a rise in consumer spending. It is all a considerable achievement when in 1976 it appeared that nothing could save the country from going bankrupt. What has saved us is not North Sea oil, though that is a valuable security, but the operation of the ordinary people of this country with a Government which was not frightened to tell them that there were difficult times ahead. We were promised two years of belt-tightening, and that's what we got: we were promised that it would pay off, and it did. The few extremists inside the Government quietened their slogan-shouting as they came face to face with the reality of our economic difficulties and the respectability of the fair-minded policies of Jim Callaghan and Denis Healey has rubbed off in an increasing move by unions and constituency Labour parties to select moderate leaders.

Even if the Government had not been forced by the loss of its majority in the House to accept the Lib-Lab pact, the policies would have been much

the same. The foundations had been laid before the pact came into existence. The pact may have delayed some decisions, but it was the moderate nature of Callaghan's government-style which attracted Liberal support in the first place. Margaret Thatcher has still to prove herself to the electorate. Her "Iron Maiden" speeches and uncompromising attitudes have undoubtedly put heart into her workers, who are in any case strongly motivated after being out of office for four years. But will her clarion calls have any power to draw the six million disaffected voters of 1974? They are unlikely to appeal to those in flight from extremists—Mrs Thatcher's constant accusations of kinship between British socialism and Soviet communism look hysterical to anyone who actually studies Jim Callaghan's style of government and its achievements. With David Steele we are on more difficult ground.

The success of the Liberals in 1974 owed something to the personality and energy of Jeremy Thorpe, but I suspect that he collected votes more because he was seen as a nice guy than as a political leader. David Steele has lost this advantage, just because he has been willing to face up to the realities of power. The Lib-Lab pact will undoubtedly cost the Liberal

Party a large number of votes, but it will not lose them many, if any, seats. This may not seem to make sense at first sight because, in general, the British electoral system is designed to favour the majority party. On the percentage vote cast in the October 1974 election, the Liberals would, on any proportional representation basis, have had over 100 seats instead of 13, since they got just over half as many votes as the Tories and just under half as many as Labour. Thus each Liberal seat in the House of Commons represents over 400,000 voters, while the Labour and Tory seats represent about 36,000 and 37,000 respectively.

Within the six million Liberal voters there is much volatility. To begin with, according to one survey, the people who voted Liberal in October 1974 were not the same people who voted Liberal in February 1974—something like 23 million of the six million changed their vote, while the Liberals picked up another two million from elsewhere. This indicates that the core of voters committed to Liberal policies as such is small and that the Liberal vote will always be dependent on the performance of the other parties. Recent by-elections indicate that voters are now returning to the two major parties, not only deserting the Liberals but also the Scottish Nationalists who have always claimed that theirs was a vote for new policies rather than a vote of disaffection.

As thus originally used, it had no reference to women. In English platonic love was originally used both to describe this sort of male homosexual love, and, more usually, to refer to the abstract love of beauty and wisdom commended in the *Symposium*. Such platonic love was the longing of the soul for beauty; the inextinguishable desire which like fire for like, which the divinity within us feels for the divinity revealed to us in beauty. Some cynics took the view that this kind of high platonic love was high platonic nonsense.

This lofty and philosophical sense of platonic love, from having originally meant a communion of two souls, and that in a rigidly dialectical sense, was gradually degraded to the expression of a maulin sentiment between the sexes. Amor socraticus has now suffered another surprising vicissitude in its long, twisted journey from the *Symposium*. It is evidently taken by some writers today to signify that one holds some opinion or feels some emotion without proposing to do anything practical about it.

Philip Howard

## The long and winding road to platonic bliss

Some odd and unsuitable freshmen have been enrolled in Plato's Academy in the present academic year. An eminent diplomatic commentator wrote the other day that the action taken by the State to atomic tests by South Africa would be purely platonic. And a leader of "The Times" yelled and thundered with more rhetoric than precision: "The question facing the Carter administration now, therefore, is whether to let the difference of opinion

between it and Mr Begin remain purely platonic, or to make clear to Israel that it will not continue to finance and arm a 'Begin' policy it thinks will lead to war." Aristotle's son of Aristotle, nicknamed Plato, "big-shouldered", because of his prowess as a wrestler as a young man, would be puzzled to know what he has to do with such matters.

This recent new use of platonic is derived tortuously from the *Symposium*, Plato's early dialogue on the nature of love, written circa 384 BC. Each of the guests at the famous dinner party makes a speech in honour of love. Finally, Socrates sounds off and takes the discussion to a higher plane. He says that the need in the human being which is manifested on a lower level by the love of the sexes, can also take an intellectual form: the desire of the soul to create concepts of wisdom and beauty, such as poets and legislators produce. Man should proceed from the love of a beautiful form (in the case of Socrates likely to be the form of a beautiful boy or

young man) to the perception and love of universal divine beauty. "But tell me, what would happen if one of you had the luck to link, upon essential beauty, entire, pure, and unalloyed; not infected with the flesh and colours of mortality, and all the rest of mortal trash?"

Amor platonicus was introduced and used synonymously with the Greek *socraticus* by Ficinus (the Florentine Marsilio Ficino, 1433-99), president of Cosimo de' Medici's Accademia Platonica, to denote the kind of interest in young men with which Socrates was credited, as thus originally used, it had no reference to women. In English platonic love was originally used both to describe this sort of male homosexual love, and, more usually, to refer to the abstract love of beauty and wisdom commended in the *Symposium*. Such platonic love was the longing of the soul for beauty; the inextinguishable desire which like fire for like, which the divinity within us feels for the divinity revealed to us in beauty. Some cynics took the view that this kind of high platonic love was high platonic nonsense.

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Philip Howard

## LEAPMAN IN AMERICA

Crime remains a dominant topic in New York and other American cities. Hopeful candidates for Congress and for state governorships vie with each other about who takes the toughest stand on the threat of criminals. No matter that in most cases they will not be in a position to do anything about it: they all believe that to advocate the death penalty and higher prison terms for offenders will pull in the votes.

At the end of last month, a national television network showed a well-publicized documentary about young criminals. One of the reporters had her handbag stolen while she was working on it and a young man she interviewed told her: "If I've got to kill you to get what I want, I'll kill you."

There is no doubt that the fear of violence does obsess people in many areas and it also preoccupies visitors. At this time of year there is a mass migration of tourists from overseas and they all ask worriedly about their safety. Figures and surveys of violent crime in the United States often conflict, evidence, as statistics often do. A survey in the *New York Times* the other day seemed to show that violence is in a slight decline. Serious crime was down 6 per cent in cities of more than a million people in 1977, compared with 1976, and the trend seems to be continuing.

One of the reasons cited is a demographic one—that there has been a reduction in the number of teenagers of crime-committing age due to the long-term decline in the birth rate. Most violent crimes in cities are carried out by young men and women in their teens and early twenties.

An opposite opinion came yesterday in a study commissioned by the Ford Foundation. This asserts that violent crimes by juveniles, particularly robbery and assault, are increasing in the United States, and confesses that it is known about why certain juveniles commit "violent crime." (This lack of knowledge of the causes cannot be attributed to want of trying to find out. Social scientists in

their hundreds study the phenomenon, producing millions of inconclusive words.) Violence in the streets, often committed for exceedingly low rewards, is the most frightening manifestation of crime, and it remains so whatever the truth about its causes or its comparative rise or fall. Yet there is a new kind of anti-social, non-violent crime burgeoning in the United States where the potential profit is much greater.

A book called *Computer Capers* by Thomas Whiteside has just been published here. It contains absorbing details of the numerous frauds carried out on banks and large institutions where people have discovered how to crack computer codes and transfer the institution's funds to themselves.

Some of the crimes Whiteside describes are so ingenious as to take the breath away. A man who worked for a savings bank diverted about a million and a half dollars to himself, which he used to indulge his passion for gambling. He did it by looting one customer's account and topping it up from another customer's account at the time the first customer was due to get his statement of interest, so nobody knew he was being robbed.

He maintained meticulous records in order to keep his scheme undetectable, and it might have remained so until today had his bookmaker's premises not been raided by the police. They saw the bank employee's name as a big customer and began to investigate how he got his hands on so much money.

A touching aspect of the fraud was that the clerk never stole from any one customer a sum greater than the 40,000 dollars which is the limit of federal insurance on bank accounts. Thus each of the victims whose accounts he depleted was able to get all the money back from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

He served 15 months in jail and, appropriately enough, he taught mathematics to other prisoners.

Another ingenious scheme was devised by the management of an equity fund which also sold life insurance. They simply wrote insurance policies on non-existent people to satisfy their books and make the company seem much more successful than it was, artificially increasing the value of its shares. The directors held large quantities.

The very sophistication of the techniques used to transfer funds by computer often encourages frauds which are the essence of simplicity. Mechanical cheque sorting depends on a code number printed at the bottom of cheques and deposit slips in magnetic ink, a different number for each account holder.

One man collected a supply of blank deposit slips—the kind placed at bank counters for the convenience of depositors who have left their printed ones at home—and had them printed with his account number in magnetic ink. He then put them back on the bank counter. Other customers used them and their deposits were thus automatically credited to his account.

Another scheme worked in almost the opposite way. A man altered the number on the bottom of his cheques so that they would be debited to someone else.

Such schemes are not necessarily restricted to embezzling money. One publicized case involved tampering with computer instructions to re-route goods wagons from the Penn Central Railway into the sidings of another railway, which then sold them.

An employee of the Exxon oil company managed to divert fuel worth half a million dollars to himself. A man who did something similar with about a million dollars' worth of telephone equipment served 40 days in prison, after which he set himself up as a computer security consultant to help companies guard against frauds such as the one he had perpetrated.

Perhaps the neatest trick was pulled by a man who obtained a bank loan and was given a book of 12 computer-coded coupons for repaying it by instalments. He made one repayment, sending in the last coupon in the book instead of

the first, and received a commally-generated letter from the bank thanking him for paying off the loan so promptly.

In a pair of articles in *The New Yorker* on which his book was based, Whiteside pointed out: "While some reported computer crimes involve the theft or embezzlement of only thousands of dollars, quite a few involve very large sums: a million dollars from a computer crime is considered a respectable but not an extraordinary score. Still another attraction of crime by computer is the fact that once someone succeeds in breaking the security of a computer system, large amounts of money are not necessarily any more difficult for him to steal or embezzle than small ones."

He made another point which helps explain why the computer criminal does not bear the social stigma of other kinds of thief: "Computer crime, to those who engage in it, is not like stealing a purse from an old lady; it imparts to it a nice, clean quality."

Many of the frauds he describes were discovered virtually by accident, after they had become perpetrators for some time. The most intriguing thought inspired by the book is to wonder how many such tapers are still being cut, all undetected.

From thinking of such sophisticated swindles, it is comforting to revert to something much more comprehensible and familiar. The other day the New York Department of Consumer Affairs made a swoop on some of the stores in the midtown Manhattan area which permanently advertise "going out of business" sales.

Many of them, according to their claims, have been going out of business for as long as anyone can remember. Their goods, far from being the bargains that are implied on their window posters, are often sold at well over normal prices.

One man complained that he had been charged \$5,000 for two movie cameras worth about half that, and a woman paid \$134 for 27 batteries normally sold at \$7 each. On the whole, people are even more gullible than computers.





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## WHY ARE THEY BEING TRIED?

There must have been very serious top level discussions in Moscow before the decision was taken to start the trials this week of Anatoly Shcharansky, Alexander Ginzburg. Both are members of the group known as the Helsinki Committee. Two years ago to monitor compliance with the Helsinki Accords, both had received publicity in the West. It is therefore to be assumed that the Soviet leaders sat down to debate the matter they were well aware that the trials would provoke sharp reactions in the West, that President Carter would have to do something to demonstrate concern, that there would be even more pressure available to the West. So why was the decision taken? Why was it thought that trial of these two men would be of sufficient benefit to outweigh the damage?

The true reasons would shed light on how the Soviet system operates at the moment. How the Soviet leaders see their interests. Unfortunately, the Soviet system is all we have but it is of some help. Dissidents have been persecuted through Russian history, so there is nothing wholly new in the fact that two are on trial today. But the regime has usually tightened its grip as after the French Revolution or the assassination of Czar II. The present leaders have a number of reasons for being nervous. They know that the nineteenth century dissidents sowed the seeds of revolution—they may think that the present neo-realist system history could

repeat itself. They have ideological reasons because the system is the sole source of truth. They have economic reasons because prospects for the next decade are not good. They have political reasons because they are approaching a difficult change of leadership at a time when the main lines of home and foreign policy are almost certainly being questioned in some parts of the apparatus. They must also be nervous about their international relations. They find Mr Carter difficult to understand; they see the pressures in Washington for tougher policies; and they have long been worried about the combined effects of the Helsinki Final Act and the revived American interest in human rights. The Helsinki monitoring group represents just that link between internal and external détente which they have always struggled to deny. They must regard it as very important to break that link and to demonstrate to home and foreign audiences that, whatever the Helsinki document may say, détente does not mean liberalization at home. They must also show that foreign pressure does not always help.

But none of this quite explains the absurd and extraordinary charges of treason against Mr Shcharansky. Even if he turns out to have had some casual and probably unknown contact with agents of the CIA in Moscow he seems unlikely to have been engaged in anything that a westerner would recognize as treason. The charges look, in fact, like a throwback to the Stalinist period when dozens of political victims were accused of links with foreign intelligence. It was a way of whipping up a siege mentality, discouraging contacts with

foreigners, and blaming internal difficulties on external conspiracies. If this policy is returning it has alarming implications for the Russian people as well as for the West. More light may be shed on this by the outcome of the trial. Meanwhile it is important that Soviet leaders should not be spared the consequences of their decision. They themselves have deliberately introduced the international dimension by raising the charge of treason. International interest is also reinforced by the fact that the accused were trying to monitor the Helsinki Final Act, an international agreement signed by the Soviet Union which contains very specific reference to the connection between international relations and respect for human rights. For these reasons alone, as well as common humanity, the trial is a matter of international concern. But there are other reasons too. The trial appears to convey two messages. One is that Soviet leaders do not care what foreigners think. The other is that there is going to be no let up in the suppression of internal dissent. The first message carries implications for East-West relations that will rebound on the Soviet Union, as the cancellations of American visits have already demonstrated. The second will also damage the Soviet image abroad, since nobody likes a repressive country, but in the long run it will damage internal development as well. Tighter clamps on political dissent inevitably discourage other forms of creativity and diversity, thereby slowing down reform and innovation in all fields. The more the system defeats its critics in the courts the more it is likely to lose elsewhere.

home. But such a power cannot be of any use if the accommodation is not there. The Government has gone some of the way towards making the provision of secure units a priority, but, during a time of economic stringency, far too little is being done. It is a question mainly of resources, not of legal powers. A distinction must be made between the two classes of juvenile criminals, and more attention and resources concentrated on the smaller but more serious group. The vast majority of delinquents are only minor nuisances, and will probably grow out of their phase of criminality. The 1969 Act, and the measures taken by the police, the social agencies and the courts, are adequate enough to cope with their deviancy. The remaining hard-core persistent offenders cause the greatest difficulties in the short-term and are likely to remain a considerable danger to society in the longer term, after they reach adulthood. For that group, resources are inadequate. They do not respond to treatment in an open setting. Both for their own good and for that of society, they require being kept in secure places. Until that security is provided—and it does need a great deal of money—we cannot hope to more than nibble at the problem of juvenile criminality.

## Future of British press service in New York

**From Lord Gore-Booth**  
The issues raised by Mr Leppard's article in *The Times* of July 8 about British Information Services in New York must clearly be a matter for government and administrative decision. However, as a former head of BIS, it is only fair for me, in loyalty to my former colleagues to comment on one point mentioned by Mr Leppard which concerns the impact and effectiveness of British publicity in the United States. Our experience was that the BBC's press summary ("Today's British Papers") was a uniquely effective way of establishing a relationship of trust with the leaders of American editorial and public opinion. This was done, coming from the BBC, an independent organization of standing, the contents could not be suspected of having been subjected to official pressure or doctrine by the government (of whatever party); not only this, the service was regarded as daily evidence that Britain was a living free democracy not afraid to expose impartially opinion of all kinds. Against this background, BIS's accepted role of explaining and interpreting British Government policy was all the more effective. Though times have changed, the above principles remain. Yours faithfully, GORE-BOOTH, House of Lords, July 9.

**From Sir Peter Hayman**  
Sir, May I, as a former head of British Information Services in New York, comment briefly on the current difference between the present holder of this exciting post and the former holder, in New York, the Ambassador in Washington? There may be facts of which I am unaware in the present case, but I am convinced after three years in BIS New York, that our daily publication of "Today's British Papers" was one of the main elements in creating Britain's "special" relationship with the American press. Moreover, given the regional nature of the American press, this was the only sure way of getting the British press regularly reported outside New York. It is a matter which is easier to judge and indeed to foster in the daily butcher's of New York rather than from the loftier heights of the embassy in Washington. However, though I have not consulted him, I believe that my chief in Washington of those days—Lord Harlech, himself of course a politician—would agree. The practice of sending out our "precis" of the British press, which was a belated but useful service during the last war, has been followed by many of our embassies around the world. I hope that this very wise practice will continue. Yours, etc, PETER HAYMAN, Uxmore House, Checkendon, Banbury, Oxfordshire, July 9.

## National park changes

**From the President of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, and others**  
Sir, We join all those who are dismayed at the changes which the Secretary of State for the Environment has proposed to the Peak Park Planning Board's Structure Plan, which would largely disable the board in pursuing the prime purpose of the National Parks Act: the purpose of preserving and enhancing the natural beauty of their area. The proposed changes would relax controls which the board had the power to exercise and have done so with manifest success over the past 25 years: control over mineral extraction, transport, road building, housing, and the like, and considered recreational development. We appeal, through your columns, to the Secretary of State and to Parliament to reject the drastic changes which would result in a complete loss of the character of the National Park. We are, Sir, your obedient servants, MOLSON, President of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, EIRENE WHITE, President of the Council for the Protection of Rural Wales, GERALD HAYTHORNTWATE, Chairman of the Council for National Parks, July 9.

## Contrast in Moscow

**From Mr Philip McDonald**  
Sir, Michael Binyon in his Moscow Diary (July 5) very accurately and vividly described the ritual of heroka shopping, but he fails to depict a slightly less humorous aspect of the ceremony, and that is the actual exit from the shop. All those huge, foreign cars lined up with their hungry boots wide open, and out come the privileged, in full view of the Soviet citizens passing by, with cartoon after cartoon piled high with goodies that the average person never sees (1975, the year I was in Moscow, was only the second year ever that oranges had been seen in the open markets, and the queues for those were infinite). And as those privileged people joyously walk home to their state-measured cubicles (three yards by three yards per person), they look out at the masses of ordinary Russians, crisscrossed by their cars, pushing their punnets of strawberries balanced on top, frozen duck side by side with large bags of mushrooms, and pridge on home to bread, potatoes and cabbage. What a wonderful world, Yours faithfully, P. McDONALD, 46 Belvedere Road, Friern Barnet, N11, July 5.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Should doctors take industrial action?

**From Professor Sir Denis Hill**  
Sir, You have reported almost daily the plight of the hospital service due to industrial action, taken or threatened by different groups of workers—nurses and porters (June 23), cleaners and porters (June 23), and junior hospital doctors (June 26). At the same time at the annual conference of the Confederation of Health Service Employees when a moral code was proposed which would restrict industrial action in such a way that patients should not suffer hardship, it was defeated. Now (June 29) family doctors have stated that if what they regard as their just financial rewards are not met "industrial action will surely follow". The medical profession took the lead in this. In 1974 when discussions about their new contract broke down, there was a restriction in the services offered by consultants, and in 1975 junior doctors restricted their work to emergencies because of discontent about their remuneration. In that year the number of new outpatients seen fell by 900,000 compared with 1974, the number of operations performed fell by a quarter of a million and waiting lists rose by 70,000 (N.H.S. The First Thirty Years, B. Abell-Smith, HMSO). No one believes that as a result of industrial action hazards to patients are not increased, that lives are not put in jeopardy and that many patients do not suffer much distress. For many doctors the idea of industrial action is intensely repugnant. Many must be asking the question, as a writer in the *Lancet* (November 15, 1975), did: "Is the

profession destroying itself? There must be more people now, like Dr Dudley, who can smell suicide in the air." Of course the medical profession has been subject to very severe stress—the undermining of medical authority, decline in standards of care, the frustration of bureaucratic domination, the evidence that private practice was to be destroyed; yet all this and much more does not justify the profession's abrogation of its essential moral contract with patients. This moral contract must surely be overriding. If it is thrown away, the profession will decline because it will lose the public's respect and its own self-respect. The leaders of the profession, the Royal Colleges and the Faculties had the opportunity in 1976 to state loudly and clearly what the nature of that moral contract is, and that whatever the circumstances it must be obeyed. They did not do so; they deplored industrial action and then blamed the Government. Many are hoping that standards will be restored and believe that the medical profession should provide leadership; others equally involved in patient care could then examine their own moral stance. Perhaps it is not too late for the Royal Colleges to think again, but time is short. I do not believe that the profession is so demoralized that it will not listen. Yours sincerely, DENIS HILL, Institute of Psychiatry, De Crespigny Park, Denmark Hill, SE5, July 3.

### A 1957 libel action

**From Mr Auberon Waugh**  
Sir, I delayed writing to point out an element in Mr John Montgomery's letter (June 21), which might find misleading, because I assumed you would be delayed by letters from lawyers—even, perhaps, from your own legal correspondent—making the same point. However, Mr Montgomery's letter of June 26, while invaluable in clarifying the particular circumstances of Bevan and Others versus Spectator Ltd (1957) avoided the general inference to be drawn from this unhappy affair and ignored altogether Mr Forster's objection (May 21) that we waited until all three plaintiffs, the judge and both senior counsel were dead before drawing attention to a particular miscarriage of justice. Mr Montgomery wrote: "The plaintiffs did not know and could not possibly have known that the *Spectator* would not plead justification. . . . If the story had been true, the plaintiffs had no means of knowing what the strength of the evidence that would be called by the defendants. In these circumstances to have started a libel action if there had been any truth in the story would have been plain madness." It is undoubtedly true that plaintiffs do not know what defendants will plead at the outset of proceedings, but some may identify it as the third major abomination of libel law that plaintiffs know within a few weeks exactly how the defendant will plead and also, long before the trial, what evidence has been able to collect. At any stage before the court hearing a plaintiff can

retire with no greater disbursement than pre-trial costs. In sporting terms, it is gambling a sprat to catch a whale. The first two abominations are already well known: that a defendant is assumed to have been guilty of an untruth in his disparagement of the plaintiff, and must prove his innocence of this if he is to escape damages; and that a plea of justification (or truth) is held to be an aggravation of the libel if it fails. A further baneful anomaly is that any punitive (as opposed to compensatory) element in damages goes to the plaintiff rather than to the State. Private citizens who are not professional writers, journalists or broadcasters may feel well protected by our libel law, which is more oppressive than those of any respectable country in the free world. But if they will glance around within their own circle of awareness at the drunks, incompetents and plain crooks who are thus protected from any suggestion which might disparage them in their office, profession, calling, trade or business, they may decide that Britain would be a happier, healthier and more successful nation under some other set of rules. We draw attention to the case at this late stage precisely because most of the principals are dead. If they were not we could not. Yours faithfully, AUBERON WAUGH, Combe Florey House, Combe Florey, Taunton, Somerset, June 29.

### Size of Budget deficit

**From Mr Wynne Godley**  
Sir, In your leader of July 3 you recall a previous estimate published on September 20, 1976, which recommended that the Budget deficit should be reduced to £4 billion in 1977-78 and to £1 billion in 1978-79, adding that these proposals had at the time been sharply criticized by many economists and government ministers as a recipe for mass unemployment and declining industrial output. You now maintain that the outcome for the deficit in 1977-78 (at just under £6 billion) was close enough to your original recommendation to justify the "fears of [your] critics [concerning] large scale unemployment for years to come" since unemployment has recently been falling, and stand by your other recommendation that there should be a further reduction to £1 billion in 1978-79 instead of the £3 billion you say is actually in prospect. I was certainly among those who believed that "the measures [you proposed] would add another million unemployed" as I stated in a letter at the time (*The Times*, September 27, 1976), and remain very strongly of the same opinion as I cannot see anything about the 1977 experience which vindicates your position. If the reduction in the Budget deficit last year, about £1 billion was accounted for by the sale of BP shares and the increased contribution of the clearing banks to the finance of export credit, then these transactions in financial assets are ignored, it would have required an increase in taxation or reduction in public expenditure compared with what actually happened of at least £4 billion last year to get the deficit down to £4 bil-

lion; even if these window dressing transactions are counted as real, the extra fiscal disbursement would have had to be at least £2 billion. (The size of the measures taken must, of course, substantially exceed the change in the recorded deficit because the imposition of new taxes and cuts in public expenditure reduces the yield from existing taxes and causes a rise in unemployment benefits.) If a reduction in the deficit to £1 billion was to be achieved in 1978-79, the tax cuts since the 1977 Budget, which have helped to generate a moderate expansion this year, would not have been possible: on the contrary, an extremely large (further) fiscal disbursement, superimposed on an already far more depressed economy would have been required. In order to get the deficit down from the £3 billion you expect this year to the £1 billion you desire, it would probably have been necessary to take restrictive fiscal measures totalling more than £10 billion during the past 18 months. Had this really happened unemployment would indeed be much higher than now and rising rapidly. As we are not far from the trough of the most severe and prolonged recession since before the war, with unemployment still not falling, and your proposals would appear dangerously mistaken now as 18 months ago, particularly as you give no hint of the process by which recovery might conceivably take place, even in some theoretical long run. Yours faithfully, WYNNE GODELEY, Department of Applied Economics, University of Cambridge, Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge, July 4.

### High food prices

**From Mr B. A. Cole**  
Sir, Mr Murphy (June 30) blames food processing firms for "forcing retail prices (of fresh fruit and vegetables) out of the reach of most of us". She thus adds her voice to the legion which is always ready to attack large companies and blame them for our ills. All too infrequently it is pointed out publicly that this is nonsense. On a point of fact, large companies generally do not buy their produce "as it comes into season". They contract before the season begins, and thus give the grower some measure of security, that he (presumably) welcomes. Without this security it is likely that fewer vegetables and fruits would be grown. The consumer benefits, too. Does Mr Murphy not want to be able to buy frozen peas all the year round? Most of us do, and must

therefore accept that these peas have to be bought from growers. To talk of a "conspiracy among food processing firms" really is ridiculous. We blame companies and growers who do business together to fill a consumer need? If Mr Murphy wants fresh fruit and vegetables she will have to pay realistic prices for them. These prices must be high enough to attract growers to take the risk of not contracting to sell their whole crop to the large processors. The prices of fresh produce often appear high, partly because the large companies in the food processing industry supply such good products at low prices. They are the last people to blame for not supplying cheap fresh produce: that is not their business. Yours faithfully, B. A. COLE, Drake Wood, Devonshire Avenue, Amersham, Buckinghamshire, July 2.

## The Prince and the Pope

**From Professor the Reverend Canon G. R. Dunstan**  
Sir, I wish to thank Lord Hallsham for his courageous and deeply moving letter (July 4) and to stand with him against the false equation of administrative rules concerning marriage with dogmas. In 1972 I was a signatory to the report *Marriage, Divorce and the Church*, which advocated an alternative to the present domestic "discipline" of the Church of England concerning the divorced. The General Synod declined it. The case, substantially the same (though more bishop-centred in one particular), is before the Synod again in a new report, *Marriage and the Church's Task*—better written, better argued and better printed than ours was. The Synod has a second chance, perhaps the last, to redeem its credit. If it fails in this, we may expect the clergy to follow their own consciences and to use responsibly the discretion which Parliament by statute has given them. As for marriages between Anglicans and Roman Catholics proposals for alleviation were agreed between formal representatives of the Vatican and the Anglican Communion in a report: *Anglican-Roman Catholic Marriage*, published in June, 1976. The Roman Catholic hierarchy of England and Wales has revised its Decree in some measure, in accordance with that report. The General Synod of the Established Church has not even considered it. Yours faithfully, G. R. DUNSTAN, 34 Cranley Park, Surbiton, Surrey, July 2.

**From Father James Joyce**  
Sir, There is some uncertainty and cynicism about the traditional nullity procedure and law; it is said that we either do no more than divorce anyone who asks (especially if they are rich), or we are being hard and doing nothing for those whose marriages have ended. It might help therefore if I tried to explain from a personal angle how I, as a member of a diocesan tribunal, see this world of the diocese, we give judgments (negative and affirmative) in about 30 cases a year. We would have advised others that as far as we can see their marriages were quite valid, and other parochial clergy will have done the same. But in the cases are done for nothing, and of the others, the maximum cost is £40, money which goes on stationery, postage, etc. I do not receive, nor want, anything for this work, and I look forward to my first bribe; which is a long time coming, since my reasons for doing this work are entirely pastoral. Obviously there is a legal aspect to this work, but our aim is to try and help those whose marriages have failed. All the members of our tribunal do this work in a part-time capacity. It is true that the law has developed in recent years, though it is still based on the traditional law of the Church, in line with the emphases of the teaching of the Second Vatican Council. Perhaps we could sum up the grounds into two categories: Were the parties free and did they understand and consent to what they were doing when they married? And, what were they consenting to? At the same time one has to try and protect the sacrament of marriage, and indeed there is a legal presumption in favour of the validity of a marriage. May I finally add that the vital area of pastoral care, the preparation of people for marriage, and perhaps this is where Catholics and other Christians could work profitably together, thus putting me out of a job. Yours sincerely, J. JOYCE, Defender of the Bond, Diocese of Portsmouth, St Edmund Campion, 6 Firs Lane, Maidenhead, Berkshire, July 5.

### Air tankers at Fairford

**From Mrs June North**  
Sir, With an uncanny sense of vandalism the Ministry of Defence has decided to allow the location of a USAF base for tanker aircraft at Fairford in Gloucestershire. The church possesses a unique treasure, the only complete set of medieval stained glass still in situ in the whole of the country. In Canterbury, York and Norwich tremendous efforts are being made to restore and preserve our precious heritage of medieval glass against the ravages of pollution. Are we at the same time consenting to endanger the equally irreplaceable stained glass in a parish church which lacks the financial resources of a great cathedral city? Yours sincerely, J. E. NORTH, Alpha, Hurstfield Road, West Molesey, Surrey, July 5.

### Average weather

**From Mr Wilfred Selway**  
Sir, Mr Desmond Shawe-Taylor, in his letter (July 5) asks the Meteorological Office to be more specific in long range forecasts. Is not this asking too much? It is doubtful if the Meteorological Office are wise in issuing long range forecasts, based on the analogue, because the paths of SW weather patterns are so devious in changing directions, and breaking forecasts. On the whole, the short range forecasting is remarkably good and the Meteorological Office are to be commended. Few people will understand temperatures quoted in degrees C, but human comfort or discomfort is self evident, especially when the weather is out of season. Yours sincerely, WILFRED SELWAY, 16 Colerne Drive, Gloucester, July 5.

## David Wood

### Mr Heath comes back in from the cold

That was lost is found, and the doing of Conservative MPs and managers passes all bounds. In a general election in July 1974, Mr Heath was elected to the House of Commons and entered into overtures with the party he led in 1965-1973. When the campaign to decide who governs Britain opens, he said, he would be as hard as ever for the return of a Conservative Government, cause that would be in the best interests of Britain. His displacement as leader would make no difference, and he wished Mrs Thatcher and her colleagues every success. At last proud Ted had come from the cold. Mrs Thatcher warmly welcomed the warm terms which he had pledged support for, and in the next few days the obligatory word for describing a heated argument was "reconciliation". It is, of course, a poor heart that rejoices, and who wants the sight of a mourner at the funeral of a party? Yet nobody may study the distance text without realising that Mr Heath has offered nothing more than his own nature would give him to give. Did anybody expect Mr Heath to do anything more than that? They thought he might take a little from Mr Powell's book of 1974, suddenly resign at Bexley and on a likeminded voters to go home? Emphatically not. Know the man, did anybody? They lie there that he would be content with a half-hearted and limited campaign in the hope that could destroy Mrs Thatcher as she destroyed him? No. Mr Heath's temperament and sense of duty made him a strong ally. Always ensured the support that he has now publicly

Moreover, Mr Heath announces his return to the front line of Conservative politics on his own terms, as all who know him expected he would. He will symbolize and campaign for his own axis of Conservative policies: what he called "the tradition of the Conservative government in which I have served under Churchill, Eden, Macmillan, and Home". That is, the Conservatism of the One Nation group formed by the ablest young men of the Conservative Party in the new Conservative backbenchers in 1920. A Disraelian Conservatism designed to bring the party back into accord with the whole people after Churchill's electoral catastrophe of 1945. And in the gathering economic maelstrom of 1973-74, Mr Heath's leadership to bring a qualified and pragmatic Conservatism that raised doubts in the minds of Mrs Thatcher and Sir Keith Joseph, as well as the backbenchers who eventually followed him to end Mr Heath's leadership to an end. Put crudely, we may say that Mrs Thatcher and Sir Keith can still be made to appear to be evoking the spirit of the pre-election Selsdon Park conference to forget he ever became party to Selsdon Park negotiations. At Stockbridge, in the Penistone constituency, Mr Heath used the opportunity of what was bound to be a lavishly well publicized speech to reassert and vindicate his Prime Minister's leadership from 1970 to 1974, with all the U-turns for which it became notable in the eyes of the majority in the 1922 committee that eventually removed him from the leadership. Mrs Thatcher, as Mr Heath has bitterly observed, makes no attempt to defend 1972-74 pragmatism, for the simple reason that it was her opposition to that that brought her to the top and her selected closest advisers are like minded. In a sense, therefore, Mr Heath's election speech did not expressly unite the Conservative Party but rather consolidated the philosophical and policy divisions that exist within it. Mr Heath must have calculated that every party manager at Central Office would be obliged to allot full time, and that Mrs Thatcher would have to welcome it as a "reconciliation" that would concentrate the minds of all Heathite party workers on the campaign to win the general election. For Mrs Thatcher,

who has failed on a few occasions to lure Mr Heath back into the fold, the speech was nothing less than a heaven-sent gift that allowed her to imply that if Mr Heath can commit himself to a thorough-going loyalist campaign, how may any Heathite or doubting Liberal hold back? That boon could not be thrown away. After all, Mrs Thatcher is a far more calculating and cautious party manager than her public brand image suggests, and she knows that the Conservative Party needs a broad base. Like Mr Heath, she is a Whig-type Tory at heart, at least by her reckoning. Her differences with Mr Heath are on method rather than principles, on practice rather than philosophy. That analysis brings me to a development inside the traditionalist section of the Conservative Party that can be nothing less than disarming equally for Mrs Thatcher and Mr Heath, both of whom came to the top on grounds of ability and maximum commitment. Here is a dinner table anecdote that tells all the story: "We tried the Grocer and we have tried the Grocer's Daughter. Next time we must go back to the Landlord'squire for a leader." The "Grocer", of course, is Private Eye's sneering nickname for Mr Heath. If you respond to the remark by asking whom the party traditionalists have in mind, they answer Mr Francis Pym, and there is a clear hint that the Douglas-Hume ballot for party leader should be abandoned to make possible a return to the old system of party consultation, with "vetting" voting and the Whips' Office in control. That such remarks should be made at all indicates an oddly defeatist judgment of the Conservative Party's chances of winning the general election when it comes, if only because it is obvious that should Mrs Thatcher win her place as leader will be assured. Yet the Squire theory is being run hard behind the scenes. The message seems to be that some traditionalist Conservatives, whose influence is not entirely dead, grow tired of leaders who rock the boat, in and out of office, by refusal to bend and by insensitive overcommitment to a particular view of what the Conservative Party is in business to achieve, other than power itself.





## COURT CIRCULAR

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
July 8: The Queen left the Palace at 11.15 for the Palace of Holyroodhouse, today and tomorrow, in an aircraft of the Queen's Flight from Royal Air Force Turbomec to Heathrow Airport, London.

The Duke of Kent left the Palace of Holyroodhouse, today and tomorrow, in an aircraft of the Queen's Flight from Royal Air Force Turbomec to Heathrow Airport, London.

The Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief, The Parachute Regiment, attended Airborne Forces Day at Aldershot.

Royal Highness travelled in an aircraft of the Queen's Flight.

**CLARENCE HOUSE**  
July 8: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother this afternoon opened Palace House at Ware, which has been restored by the Hertfordshire Building Preservation Trust.

The Lady Jean Rankin and Sir Martin Gilliat were in attendance.

**YORK HOUSE**  
July 8: The Duke of Kent, President of the All England Lawn Tennis Club, accompanied by the Duchess of Kent, was present this afternoon at the Championship meeting at Wimbledon and presented challenge trophies to the winners.

Lieutenant-Commander Richard Buckley, RN, and Miss Jane Pugh were in attendance.

**Forthcoming marriages**  
Mr C. F. Dehn, QC, and Miss E. P. de Collyer.

The engagement is announced between Mr C. F. Dehn, QC, and Miss E. P. de Collyer, daughter of Mr and Mrs C. F. Dehn, of London, and Marjorie, daughter of Mr and Mrs C. F. Dehn, of Chichester, Oxfordshire.

Mr C. R. Garland and Miss S. R. Walden.

The engagement is announced between Mr C. R. Garland, of London, and Miss S. R. Walden, daughter of Mr and Mrs C. R. Garland, of London, and Marjorie, daughter of Mr and Mrs C. R. Garland, of Chichester, Oxfordshire.

Mr A. W. Hardy and Miss R. E. Elton.

The engagement is announced between Mr A. W. Hardy, of London, and Miss R. E. Elton, daughter of Mr and Mrs A. W. Hardy, of London, and Marjorie, daughter of Mr and Mrs A. W. Hardy, of Chichester, Oxfordshire.

Major P. B. Kirby, RA, and Miss K. Pugh.

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Mr C. B. Reid and Miss E. W. Wilbers.

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**Today's engagements**  
The Duke of Edinburgh, as patron of the 400th anniversary conference, visits conference at Royal College of Physicians, 4.20, and as trustee of National Maritime Museum, opens Royal Barge House at the museum, Greenwich, 7.45.

The Prince of Wales tours properties of Duchy of Cornwall, 12.15. Princess Anne, with Captain Mark Phillips, opens R. Townsend and Company's new animal feed mill at Stratford Mills, Stroud, 11.20.

Recluse, Peter Wild, piano, St. Michael's Cornhill, 1.15.

Exhibitions: William Harvey and the circulation of the blood, Science Museum, South Kensington, 10.6. Paintings, gouaches, drawings by Diane Timmerman, at the Royal Academy, 147 New Bond Street, 10.5.30.

**Latest appointments**  
Dr H. Kay, Vice-Chancellor, Exeter University, to be chairman of the Universities Central Council on Admissions from October 1, in succession to Sir Harry Pitt.

**Prospective candidate**  
Mr Elwyn Morgan, aged 35, former Labour MP for Cardiff, as prospective parliamentary Labour candidate for Anglesey, in place of Mr David Hughes, who has held the seat since 1951 and who recently announced he would not stand again. The last general election Mr Morgan was elected in a four-cornered fight.

# Organized Christianity 'now of pinkish hue'

By Clifford Longley

Religious Affairs Correspondent  
In 1975 the two Anglican archbishops, Dr Coggan and Dr Blanch, declared in the so-called "call to the nation" that the time had come for it to consider what it was about and where it was going. The public and even the Church of England, paid not much heed, but that is not to deny that the attempt was courageous. The British Council of Churches, however, heard and acted.

It had been contemplating a big project on the state of the nation for some time before the "call" with that added stimulus it came to a firm decision to launch into the subject. A list of topics was prepared, subdivided, and parcelled out to committees of experts and well-wishers; masses of paper flowed to and fro, and the ecclesiastical air became dense with sociological jargon. The exercise has culminated in a book, published by the British Council of Churches with the enthusiasm of Dr Coggan behind it.

Some will say that it is appropriate that something that began with words rather than actions should culminate in words rather than actions. A book seems rather a mouse, not much of a lion, but in 1975 and still, although some of the dust has cleared, the confusion of public affairs had reached such a level of incom-

prehensibility that mere actions would have been blind gestures. It seemed as if the nation had lost its way and did not want to be led because it did not know where it wanted to be led.

That crisis of public morale has passed, and the book, *Britain Today and Tomorrow*, by Canon Trevor Beeson (Collins, £1.50), has appeared too late to catch the public mood. Canon Beeson was appointed to boil down into a coherent pattern the hundreds of thousands of "words" that the project had spawned and to draw whatever conclusions seemed "justified" by the material.

The underlying tone that he discovered was astonishingly critical, and sometimes radical. The church experts and church leaders who have shaped the outcome of the project have shown themselves Christian liberal socialists, men and women committed to a vision of justice that implies greater exaltation in society, further restrictions on the market, enthusiasm for Keynesian public expenditure, and public involvement in industry and commerce, qualified support for strong trade unionism, and active opposition to racial discrimination; in fact, not much of a lion, but in 1975 and still, although some of the dust has cleared, the confusion of public affairs had reached such a level of incom-

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guiding hands steering a free market system towards ever greater prosperity, nor uncritical endorsement of the so-called Protestant ethic, whereby the thrifty and hard-working expect to be rewarded by Providence. The tone is sceptical of capitalism, distrustful of social privilege. The battle cry is "For justice and the poor", and the banner is the Bible and the Cross.

The book marks some sort of watershed: never again can any church be described as the "Conservative Party at prayer". If that is its manifesto, Organized Christianity is now of pinkish hue, too accommodating to be Marxist certainly, but prepared to dip into Marx for an odd insight or two. The correct label would probably be "Christian radicalism", and as Canon Beeson points out, it would not be surprising if the two archbishops were slightly taken aback by the end product of their "call to the nation".

As far as it is possible to tell, *Britain Today and Tomorrow* does truly reflect the temper of what might be called ecclesiastical middle management. The average general synodman, rural dean, circuit chairman, or vicar-moderator would share most of the opinions put forward, judged from the available evidence. Among such people there is certainly no sign at all of the opposite contrast: the Christian roots of

high Toryism are being articulated by the leaders of the Conservative Party but not by the leaders of the churches.

Nevertheless, it is probably safe to assume that in the coming election the Conservatives will vote, most of the churchgoers will vote, Church attendance at local level is fairly well insulated from prevailing currents of thought or hierarchy, and people do not go to church to be told what to think about politics. That may be part of a wider gap between the leaders and the led, a firm of mutual non-communication, do religious matters, do ideas do politics gradually downwards, however, and the British Council of Churches has plans to apply some pressure to the percolation process with Canon Beeson's book as the summation of the message.

If it is done with enthusiasm and strikes a chord in the hearts of the faithful, the influence could ultimately be immense. If all the churchgoers in Britain were converted to a social and political analysis along the lines of *Britain Today and Tomorrow*, the Labour Party would indeed become the natural party of government. It has already captured the commanding heights of the nation's religious life, and it is not clear what the book stands for, if it has happened, as far as is known, without Transport House lifting so much as a telephone.

**Parliamentary diary**  
House of Commons  
July 8: Statement on Commons taken by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mr. James Prior, on the subject of the proposed new Bill for the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Bill, 1978.

July 9: Statement on Commons taken by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mr. James Prior, on the subject of the proposed new Bill for the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Bill, 1978.

July 10: Statement on Commons taken by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mr. James Prior, on the subject of the proposed new Bill for the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Bill, 1978.

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July 12: Statement on Commons taken by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mr. James Prior, on the subject of the proposed new Bill for the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Bill, 1978.

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July 14: Statement on Commons taken by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mr. James Prior, on the subject of the proposed new Bill for the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Bill, 1978.

July 15: Statement on Commons taken by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mr. James Prior, on the subject of the proposed new Bill for the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Bill, 1978.

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## OBITUARY

### SIR DENYS PAGE

#### Outstanding classical scholar of his times

Sir Denys Page, Regius Professor of Greek at Cambridge from 1950 to 1973, and Master of Jesus College, from 1939 to 1973, who died on July 6 at the age of 70, was one of the most distinguished classical scholars of his generation.

Denys Lionel Page was born in 1908, the son of F. H. D. Page, a railway official, and his wife Elsie. From Newbury Grammar School, Oxford, where he obtained First Classics in Classical Moderations and in Literae Humaniores, besides winning the Craven and De Paravicini Scholarships, the Chancellor's Prize for Latin Verse and the Gaisford Prize for Greek Verse. With the aid of the Derby Scholarship he worked for a year in Vienna under Ludwig Radermacher, on his return in 1933 he became Lecturer in Greek at Jesus College, and the following year Student and Tutor, of Christ Church.

At the outbreak of war in 1939 he was already known as a scholar of great ability. During the war he did distinguished service at Bletchley Park concerned with military intelligence writing from the deciphering of German signals, and for a year after it ended he was head of the corresponding organization for the Far East.

Returning to Oxford, he served as Senior Proctor in 1948-49. In 1950 he was chosen to succeed D. S. Robertson as Regius Professor of Greek at Cambridge, and was elected a Fellow of Trinity College. In 1959 he became Master of Jesus College, Cambridge, in succession to E. M. W. Tillyard. He held both positions until his retirement in 1973.

His first book, *Aeschylus: The Persians*, appeared in 1934; in 1938 he published a new text of and commentary upon Euripides' *Medea*. In 1941 appeared his *Greek Literature*, part of the Loeb Classical Library; a great variety of texts was edited, translated and explained in brief but masterly fashion. After his move to Cambridge he published a new text of and commentary upon Euripides' *Medea*. In 1941 appeared his *Greek Literature*, part of the Loeb Classical Library; a great variety of texts was edited, translated and explained in brief but masterly fashion.

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Gracis, in 1974. He also edited large fragments of an ancient work on lyric poetry which appeared as Part XXIX of the *Oxyrhynchus Papyri* in 1963. His contribution to the editing and explanation of the texts of the Greek lyric poets would by itself have sufficed to make him one of the most distinguished scholars of the present age.

Page's *Lectures*, given by Bryn Mawr in 1954, came out the next year as the *Homeric Odyssey*, and his *Sather Lectures*, given at Berkeley in 1957, came out in 1959 as *History and the Homeric Iliad*. Both books display his brilliant abilities, but both, particularly the former, are marred by an excessive dogmatism. Yet despite the unsoundness of much of the evidence and the uncertainty of many of the conclusions, Page's command of the extensive material bearing on the Mycenaean age and that which followed, including archaeological data and Oriental texts, make the second book in particular a valuable contribution to Homeric studies.

At his death in 1949, Page's great friend and colleague, J. D. Denniston, left the draft of a brief edition of Aeschylus' *Agamemnon*, with commentary, which he had intended to revise. It was after the masterly edition of Edward Vieuille. In the event the task of revision fell to Page, and the book was published in 1957, seven years after Frankel's work. Perhaps Page's greatest contribution to the practical ability, and his practical ability, to the power of his personality, helped him to render great services to his college, to whose members, senior and junior, he was always friendly and accessible.

He married in 1938 Katherine Elizabeth Doherty of Pennsylvania, whose mother was a well-known archaeologist. They had four daughters, and enjoyed a quiet life of a scholar, a mother and a happy family. He could have continued as Professor until 1975 and as Master till he reached the age of 70, but in 1973 his wife's serious illness led him to resign both appointments, and he retired to Northumberland. He was a Doctor of Letters of Cambridge, and held honorary degrees from Oxford, Trinity College, Dublin, and the University of Newcastle. He was an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society, and a member of the British Academy. He was elected Fellow of the British Academy in 1952, and served as president from 1971-74. The choice of one so robustly traditional in his outlook as Denys Page to replace the more radical and daring of his colleagues was in a sense surprising, but Page's charm, energy, and practical ability helped him to do the Academy great services.

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# Union leader resists dock strike call

UNITED  
on EC1A 2EU.

**LIMITED**  
don EC1A 2EU.



## Most of £1.5m damage to homes 'caused by gas explosions'

By John Huxley

Conversion from town (manufactured) to natural gas has reduced the risk of explosions in homes, according to a report published by the Building Research Establishment.

However, the period covered—from 1971 to 1977—there has been a small increase in the risk of damage from an explosion of gas entering a building from an external leak, and the authors recommend an intensification of efforts to eliminate such leaks.

The survey, carried out in conjunction with the Construction Industry Research and Information Association (CIRIA), was designed to provide more reliable data for the framing of design recommendations and regulations. It concludes that present regulations are "not unreasonable if the cost of meeting them is considered reasonable for the avoidance of about one serious partial collapse of a building of five or more storeys every 25 years".

The present annual cost of accidental structural damage to non-industrial buildings is put at about £1.5m. Of this between 80 per cent and 90 per cent is attributable to explosions, and the remainder to impact from vehicles, especially lorries.

During the six years of the survey such damage resulted in 206 known fatalities.

Although accidents involving piped and liquefied (cylinder) gas accounted for about 37 per cent of all explosions, the majority of these appear to be caused by leaks from cylinders. Users should be made more aware of the risks arising from improper use and faulty equipment, and should be better instructed in correct procedures, the report points out.

In examining the incidence of explosions caused where gas leaked into a building from outside, the authors of the report, who received full cooperation from British Gas, discovered a high correlation with certain aspects of the weather. Thus, very

cold weather, especially when the ground is saturated or covered in snow, seems to lead to escaping gas travelling downwards into nearby buildings more readily than in warm weather when the gas can easily escape upwards into the open air.

Few design implications are drawn from accidents involving buildings damaged by road vehicles. "This seems to be largely on account of their siting in relation to traffic routes. As they are mostly old buildings that it is impracticable or uneconomic to strengthen usefully, reduction of the risk of impact damage calls chiefly for rerouting of heavy traffic away from narrow streets lined by old buildings, though protective bollards, curbs or low walls may be a reasonable alternative in some cases."

"Structural damage in buildings caused by gaseous explosions and other accidental loadings, 1971-1977, Stationery Office, £3.75.



Sir Jack Wellings, chairman and managing director of the 500 Group, who has been appointed chairman of the sector working party for construction equipment, set up as part of the Government's industrial strategy. The sector has been under considerable pressure recently, trying to cope with stagnating demand and increased competition from overseas manufacturers, particularly the Japanese.

## Business appointments

### Market director for Hogg Robinson

Mr J. P. S. Riddell has been appointed a director of Hogg Robinson Group in charge of group marketing and development. Mr David Carrington has joined the board of Hogg Robinson Limited.

Mr R. S. Price has been made managing director of the Credit Insurance Association.

Mr Roger Wake becomes non-executive chairman of Camrex (Holdings) Ltd. Mr Alan Miller has resigned as chief executive director, but remains an executive director.

Following the appointment of Mr Henry Williams as chairman of Servis Domestic Appliances, the former chairman, Mr Alfred Maxwell, will continue part-time as deputy chairman.

Mr D. J. Heggman becomes a member of Williams de Broe Hill Chaplin.

Mr Ronald Clark has been made managing director of Plessey's electronic components division in succession to Mr Maurice St Alban.

Mr Godfrey Bland has been made managing director of Pentos Group.

Mr John Wormull and Mr Peter Owen are to become joint managing directors of Eversheds on July 10.

Mr R. J. Tindall has been made a director of J. J. Tindall & Co.

Mr Paul Foley has become director of sales and marketing on the board of Multi-seal.

Mr Anthony Skinner becomes executive director of the International Council of Marine Industry Associations.

Mr Derrick Gould and Mr Gerald Galle have been made directors of Sheffield Sheet Products.

Mr J. M. Williamson becomes managing director of Bymo-Lift. He succeeds Mr Sven Leijonmark.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Structure of company boards

From the Secretary General of the Anglo-German Foundation for the Study of Industrial Society

Sir, The director-general of the Institute of Directors (June 15) should aim with more precision if he wishes to contest the case for employee representation on company boards.

The two-board system arose in Germany in the last century so that those who provided the funds for investment could have a more effective voice in the affairs of the company through the supervisory council, while preserving a wholly professional but accountable management board to run the company.

Representation of ordinary employees was not at that time, in question. It is well known that directors of British companies have no statutory requirements for particular qualifications or skills and have no statutory duty to exercise skill in their role as directors. They need only be elected, although in practice this more often than not means that they need only secure re-appointment. They range from well-qualified, hard working, and competent professionals to those who have merely benefited from patronage, grace or favour, nepotism or sheer stupidity. Some boards are entirely confused as to the roles of their members. The non-

executives often like to dabble in technical problems but evade strategic decisions. Shareholders' interests are often weakly represented by people who are technically inadequate with regard to the detailed problems of the firm but feel the restrictions on justified criticism of performance which derive from being members of one "club".

Recent suggestions that some external directors should have a vetoing function of a type different from that of the executive directors who head the management of a company were rightly resented by the British Institute of Management.

A very good case can be made for a two-board system (not necessarily identical with that used in the Federal Republic of Germany) irrespective of what may be decided about employee representation, and it would be helpful if that case could be debated. Such a system would provide more effective representation of shareholder interests while leaving the running of the company to the professionals on the management board. I do not mean only what is called "day to day management", since I have yet to find a professional manager whose timescale is of the kind which this careless phrase implies.

Clearly it should also be recognized that the situation might well be different when the ownership and the management are synonymous. Unlike the Bullock-report the White Paper offers the possibility of reasonably objective and rational discussion about matters which have a substantial practical content and not merely a political content.

May I plead that those who wish to get into the argument should conduct it in this way? There are enough real points to support either side of each argument and enough real evidence of the working of systems other than British to ensure that no one need go short of ammunition without resorting to mythology.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER MCGREGOR  
Secretary General,  
Anglo-German Foundation for the Study of Industrial Society,  
St Stephen's House,  
Victoria Embankment,  
Westminster, SW1 2LA

## The NEDO view on competition policy

From the Director General of the National Economic Development Office

Sir, Your headline "Beneficial pact" being curbed by Whitehall" (July 6) will inevitably lead readers to assume the words in quotation marks to be mine. They are not; nor do I believe them; nor do they reflect the views of the NEDO memorandum which are accurately described in the body of your article. They are simply the words of your correspondent taken from his introductory paragraph in which he gives as he is entitled to do his own summary interpretation of the argument.

Having some understanding of and therefore sympathy with the manner in which newspapers are produced, I would not write this letter were it not that the impression given could be severely damaging.

The subject of competition policy has been brought forward by Government for consultation. The NEDO paper is a contribution to the debate. Essentially, it argues for a climate in which merger policy is sufficiently clear to encourage companies more ready to test it when they believe their proposed actions to be in the

national interest; secondly, it argues for exemption to be legislated for certain types of cooperative action which have been identified by sector working parties as necessary to greater competitive efficiency among smaller companies. It also, as your article clearly indicates, contends that the evidence underlying the Green Paper proposals for a stricter merger policy is insufficiently broad. On this point, however, I have sought a re-examination in the light of the NEDO paper evidence.

"Whitehall" does not "curb" the "pact". The tripartite dialogue of the industrial strategy has in fact brought "Whitehall" closer to industry and its problems. It has even been stated that the process leading to the final recommendation to the Airline's board, when made, will, of course, represent the views of the total "airline management" and not just one individual.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN JESSOP  
Flight Operations Director,  
British Airways,  
PO Box 10,  
Heathrow Airport (London),  
Hounslow TW6 2JA

## Report on US air projects

From Mr J. W. Jessop

Sir, I hope you will permit me to put into the proper context the report made by a member of my staff who had visited new projects at the Boeing and McDonnell Douglas plants in the United States and quoted by your air correspondent on July 6.

The report, delivered in early May, was intended to provide an evaluation of certain technical systems in the projects. The report, and especially the portion quoted by your air correspondent, does not represent the definitive views of British Airways or of its flight operations management.

As you would expect, at a time when British Airways is evaluating a number of future aircraft projects, reports of this type are frequently made. They are not only a part of the process leading to the final recommendation to the Airline's board, when made, will, of course, represent the views of the total "airline management" and not just one individual.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN JESSOP  
Flight Operations Director,  
British Airways,  
PO Box 10,  
Heathrow Airport (London),  
Hounslow TW6 2JA

## Crisis in Kidderminster's carpet industry

### Industry in the regions

The pleasant Worcestershire market town of Kidderminster is the home of the traditional woven carpet industry. One in four of the 40,000 working population is employed making carpets, and today they are all worried about the future of the town's 17 factories.

On the face of it, they have little more to worry about than the high level of unemployment affecting British industry as a whole. For most of this year unemployment in Kidderminster has been running at around 6 per cent, only fractionally above the national average of 5.9 per cent. Indeed, last month it fell below the national average to 5.5 per cent.

But behind the statistics it is clear that Kidderminster faces its biggest crisis for a long time. Last year, the Kidderminster Carpet Manufacturers' Association, a member of the Youthful Carpers Group, announced plans to close down and make all 300 employees redundant.

Since 1976 over 1,000 jobs have been lost in the town through the closure of Taylor Carpets and Cutbacks, Adams, Munster, and other companies. In addition Bond Worth, a major employer with a 1,400-strong labour force, is in the hands of the official receiver.

Mr Harold Simmonds, president of the Power Loom Carpet Weavers' and Textile Workers' Association, says: "The jobs that have gone so far are only the tip of the iceberg. Another eight firms are receiving the temporary

employment subsidy from the Government to keep their heads above water. If they should fail, we could see half the carpet makers in Kidderminster on the dole."

And according to Mr Simmonds, the recession which first began to show in 1972 is only partially due to falling market demand. It blames the large groups for switching investment from Kidderminster to factories in the North where direct Government aid helped them introduce new and less labour-intensive methods of manufacturing carpets.

As a result Kidderminster, which once accounted for 37 per cent of the British carpet industry's entire labour force, now provides only 22 per cent.

Mr David Carter, the union's general secretary, is currently preparing a new submission for Government aid. He said: "We believe that Kidderminster should be treated as a special case and given direct Government financial assistance to help it reorganise like the Lancashire cotton industry."

It will be the second time in recent years that the union has made such a request. It knows well that with less than 10,000 jobs at stake Kidderminster's problem is only a drop in the ocean compared with the massive cutbacks facing the steel industry. But as Mr Carter says: "We have no alternative. We have to try

every avenue to save the Kidderminster carpet industry and protect our members' jobs."

He is particularly critical of "the big employers" in the town who, he claims, are prepared to sit out the present recession in the hope that when it ends there will be less competition.

But employers refute this. They insist that it is the union's own "dog in the manger" attitude to the need for changing methods of working which is preventing Kidderminster from ensuring its future.

One of the town's biggest employers has been negotiating unsuccessfully with the union for over a year to introduce new weaving machinery which will produce the wider four metre carpet now in demand, and at a much faster rate, wants to reduce the manning on existing machines and move the men displaced to the new equipment.

"This development which is giving most concern to the union is the report that another employer plans to bring in very advanced plant to manufacture tufted loom printed carpets. It is the advance of this 'cheaper' tufted carpet which has done the most damage."

Union leaders like Mr Simmonds and Mr Carter admit that they cannot oppose the march of progress, and that it is inevitable that even the

woven factories will have to become more mechanised. But they insist that it is wrong to rely on the introduction of high speed machinery, which can be manned by a fraction of the present labour force is only open to a few of Kidderminster's firms.

"The inevitable result in their view is that the competitiveness of a few will be increased at the expense of the remainder. Those who cannot raise the finance to modernize will be forced out of business," says Mr Carter. "What is needed is government finance to help all the firms. We are convinced that the demand for woven carpets is sufficient for all if they can become more competitive."

Because of the delicately balanced nature of the present negotiations, employers decline to be identified. One who insisted on remaining anonymous said: "This is just the sort of parochial attitude which will ruin the industry. We are not so much fighting against each other here as international competition using either cheap labour or labour which is prepared to adjust to new methods."

"We are not being over-dramatic to say that Kidderminster is at the crossroads. Unions and management, either pull together to ensure a future, or accept a slow but inevitable decline."

Clifford Webb

## £3.5m Cyprus award to Costain

Costain Civil Engineering has been awarded a £3.5m contract by the Cyprus Government to build an irrigation network in the south west of the island.

Gleeson Civil Engineering has won a £3m award from the National Coal Board Opencast Executive for the production of 269,000 tonnes of coal from the Elmhurst opencast site, near Adlington, Lancashire.

Tilbury Construction of Maidstone in Kent has been awarded a contract worth more than £500,000 by Ford of Europe to build extensions at its Dagenham plant.



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MORE SECRETARIAL APPOINTMENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 22

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## Something stirs in Europe

Is the tide turned in Europe? Some of the largest companies believe they have begun to detect an upturn in their continental markets. This could be a development of considerable importance in a central factor depressing the profits of many multinational groups over the past year.

The recovery is by no means general, however. It seems to have centred on consumer goods and has not filtered back to the material industries on any scale. For instance, Unilever has seen some revival in demand for its consumer products such as detergents and foodstuffs, though it sees the improvement as tentative. It is by no means clear whether the upturn is the start of a sustainable trend or a temporary aberration. Moreover, the recovery does not seem to have fed back into the industrial sector. The demand for its products such as machinery and chemicals, Reckitt Colman, however, is more explicit. Its lines in Europe are household goods, toiletries and after-shave products. In the first quarter of the year, it has a sufficient bounce back to exceed its targets. Courts, although its sales are affected by a number of special factors, also thinks the climate is beginning to brighten a little better.

Elsewhere, though, the optimism is not pronounced. In its first quarter results, May ICI referred to "modest improvement" in trading performance in the United Kingdom and Continental Western Europe, events since then have not confirmed strong trends. Activity is above the level of the appalling second half of last year, and there are signs of firmer prices in some areas. But ICI thinks it is too early to talk about recovery. And for all that, it has identified some improvement in the 5 per cent rise in European man-made fibre sales in the first four months of the year over the same period a year earlier, most entirely explained by strong revival in the end of last year. This year sales stayed on a plateau, and are not set to come off it in the immediate future. In the motor industry, meanwhile, demand seems to have levelled off, some way below the peaks achieved last year in the main German, French and Italian markets, although counting Sweden there has been a definite downturn.

Is not unusual, of course, for recovery to start first in consumer goods markets, and if an upturn really is developing, it will, in due course, feed back to manufacturing industry. But any tentative indicators need to be treated with caution. According to the OECD, it is only 10 per cent to achieve growth in GNP of 2 per cent this year, and neither the Bremen nor 1 summits held out much reason for optimism about 1979. This hardly looks like stuff of which trade booms are made.

largely discounted earlier this year, leaving little likelihood that the February "low" will be seriously retested, let alone breached. The second is that a further sharp rise in interest rates may not even be needed. The rapid acceleration in economic activity and money supply during the second quarter was no more than a temporary over-reaction after the stagnation of the winter months. From here on the pace of economic activity and inflation is likely to slow down, both of its own accord and as a result of the increase in interest rates already seen. It may be some time, however, before we know which school is right.

### Auditing

#### The squabble at Rediffusion

The decision by Rediffusion's joint auditors, Binder Hamlyn and Fryer Whitehill, to challenge the board's proposal to replace them with Deloitte Haskins & Sells at the annual meeting in two weeks' time provides a neat opportunity to settle an important point. In real terms, of course, it does no more than that, as BH, which controls Rediffusion with a 58 per cent holding can obviously force the change through. But a resounding rejection by minority shareholders would have wide implications.

Simply, the issue is about whether minority shareholders should choose the auditors in the case of a partially-owned subsidiary. The law says straightforwardly that the decision is made by a simple majority vote of shareholders. But having the same auditor for parent and subsidiary at least raises the possibility of a conflict of interest in areas where group treatment of the accounts might be different to subsidiary treatment. Examples are the treatment of advance corporation tax, losses for tax purposes and common properties.

But there are other pressures at work. Group auditors are ultimately responsible for the entire group audit, a responsibility which is carried out in the case of different accounts by audit reviews by the main firm. A firm's endorsement of a set of accounts of a large company also involves



Sir John Spencer Wills, chairman of BET and its subsidiary, Rediffusion.

the reputation of that firm being staked on the quality of all the subsidiary audits. In response to this, most big auditing firms are now exerting "gentle pressure" on their clients to bring the entire audit under one roof. In the case of multinational companies this also fits in neatly with the steadily expanding international spread of the "big eight" accounting firms.

Implications for the profession are obvious enough: as a familiar and blue-blooded accounting name becomes increasingly "de rigueur" in big company accounts, leading firms will tend to pick up more and more business among the subsidiaries. True this is no more than one more push in a direction which has long been clear and is not the immediate concern of Rediffusion shareholders.

They are being asked if they want to make a gesture on a single point of principle since nobody is suggesting that any of the firms involved have behaved in any way incorrectly. In general it must be right that a change of auditors should ring alarm bells in the minds of shareholders. But since finally trust must always be involved in the auditing process, Binder Hamlyn and Fryer Whitehill may be asking for an excessively fine ethical point to prevail over reasonable practice.

### Pay policy 2

## How wide a gap between rhetoric and reality?

In two weeks' time the Government will announce a new pay policy for the year ahead and the chances are that its broad outline will be almost identical to the present policy. The Government will name a figure for the increase in earnings which it believes the country can afford and will probably (though not certainly) split this figure into a general entitlement which we can all expect and a much smaller component for relatives, differentials and other miscellaneous items.

Probably the figures will be a 7 per cent increase in earnings overall, of which 4 per cent will be the general entitlement.

Some last-minute doubts have been expressed within the Government about whether it is right to name a figure at all,

In the second of two articles examining prospects for a further period of wage restraint David Blake, Economics Correspondent, looks at the record of Phase Three

but the probability is that one will appear, instead of reliance on some vague phrase. However, if a figure is indeed given, it will be the whole of the Government's responsibility: the trade unions will simply make it clear that they will not actively dissent from it as a general statement of arithmetic. Most of their claims will consist of a basic demand for the Government's norm (which they will interpret as 7 per cent) coupled with a range of extras on top.

Sometime in August or September a small company in a non-marginal constituency will not doubt feel the first brunt of the policy. The Department of Employment will be sending it a letter out to lose a government contract, amid Opposition charges of victimization and Government claims that no one is too great or too minor to catch the notice of the Department of Employment and the Treasury. The purpose will be to send the message that "Albert Booth is watching YOU", thus persuading small firms that excessive settlements will not slip by unnoticed.

But, in fact, if they believe

this, they will be wrong. Government monitoring of pay policy is essentially restricted to giving advice to firms which actively seek it. Only companies run by fools or people acting in bad faith in their negotiations will actually bother to ask the department's advice.

Because the shape of phase four is essentially identical to that of phase three, with the 10 per cent earnings growth aimed for this year we ought to be able to make some deductions about the effectiveness of the new policy from the present pay round.

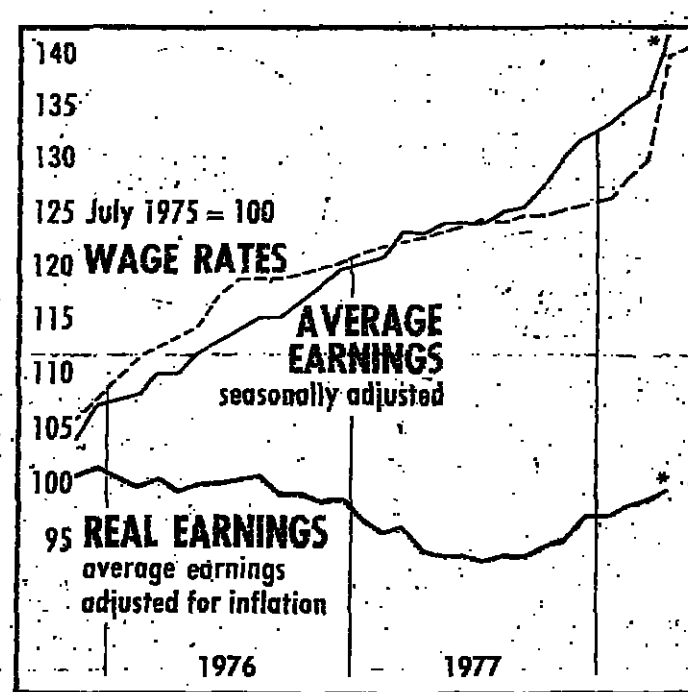
In doing this the first point to establish clearly is that the Government always felt the need for an element of deception in its presentation of the goal which it was seeking to achieve. Although the stated target was an increase in average earnings of 10 per cent during the year covered by the policy, the actual private hope was that earnings would grow by no more than 3 per cent and many internal expectations were higher still at about 15 per cent.

It is important to remember this point, because it should prevent an exaggerated reaction to the over-optimism which is occurring in the current pay round. The best measure of average earnings, which we have in the new series introduced with January, 1976, as a base date, is the index which on the best available estimates, rise by about 14 to 15 per cent in the current round.

This is near the top end of government hopes, but slightly below most private estimates in the summer of 1977, when the target was 15 per cent.

There is another index, with 1970 as a base, and this is rising much faster, probably by about 17 to 18 per cent during the current year. The Government's major problem in selling the idea that wages have not started to soar, or of coming from the fact that most attention focuses on this old index.

The two main reasons for this attention are that people are used to the old index and that the Department of Employment persists in saying that it is better than the new one as an index of short-term pay movements. This, however, is because the new index has not been going long enough for seasonal adjustments to be applied. If the index is to be used as a guide to the new index, it is the right one to use and it is a major presentational error by the Government not to have focused attention on it much earlier.



Old series

The existence of the two indices does reveal an important fact: the gap in performance between the private and public sectors. In over-simplified form the real difference between the two indices is that the new one is still fairly small, but there may be some tendency for other groups to assert what they regard as parity.

Against that, the fact that some of the most powerful occupational groups have been given exemption from the full rigour of any phase four means that they have much to gain from seeing it applied firmly to other groups.

It is outside the Government that the gap between rhetoric and reality really emerges. Both the Government and the Confederation of British Industry claim that the pay policy has been observed, with the proportion of people settling within the guidelines sounding like the votes for the winning side in elections to the central committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

About 98 per cent of all settlements are supposed to be within the guidelines, and there are reported to be few

structure of public sector bargaining, which also has less scope for "fiddling".

Not that the Government has not had to make some concessions to hold the line on public sector pay. The most important is a promise about future settlements to some powerful groups, such as firemen, police and the forces.

The overall effect of these concessions on the next pay round is hard to assess. The number of workers involved is still fairly small, but there may be some tendency for other groups to assert what they regard as parity.

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ductivity deals, bonus or otherwise. Yet the latest figures show that the old index (covering manufacturing and private sector services for the most part) was 15 per cent higher in April this year than it was in April, 1977.

The new index was only 12 per cent up, the difference being explained by the much higher average rises in manufacturing and private sector services. For the economy as a whole wages have risen by about 9 per cent since phase three started and in manufacturing 12.5 per cent in April. Although some industries have had quite low increases, the median for industrial earnings, seems to be around 14 per cent, a figure which is edging up.

There are big variations around this figure. Shipbuilding and marine engineering, not noted as a great success story in the past year, paid its workers 25 per cent more in April than it did when the policy started, though in fairness this figure was probably inflated by back pay. Mining and quarrying suffered no such obvious distortion, but April earnings were 22.9 per cent above their level when the pay policy started.

The apparent non-militancy of the National Union of Mineworkers earlier this year is perhaps more explicable if the figures are taken into account.

Two things we do not know are the answers to perhaps the most important questions of all. The first is what in fact these high increases in earnings during the current round will have next year. They might have been enough to assuage fears about real wages and to satisfy short-term demands for improved real living standards: on the other hand, they might merely have whetted the appetite for big rises in earnings and produced larger claims for next year on the (correct) basis that such large settlements in 1977-78 must push up inflation in 1978-79.

The second question is how different things might have been if the Government had not tried to set a wage norm at all. It is possible that the low level of inflation might have been produced an even lower figure for earnings increases than we actually achieved.

Against that, there is the real danger that we might have seen another huge explosion or, if not that, a fierce confrontation about the role of wages in the economy.

## Meriden motor cycle scramble

### Clifford Webb

The collapse of the once-dominant British motor cycle industry—accounted for 70 per cent of world markets in the 1950s—has been well documented in recent years. But the lessons still to be learnt from this appalling story of mismanagement and lost opportunity are so important for the future of similarly beset domestic industries that any further insight into what went on behind the scenes must be worthy of investigation.

The Centre for Policy Studies' latest contribution to private enterprise views on government intervention in industry is plunging a well-known furrow. But because its author, former Conservative MP Jack Bruce-Gardner, is joint chairman of the Conservative Parliamentary Party finance committee and a member of the Commons expenditure committee during many of those fateful years, he has been able to open a number of previously closed doors.

Twenty years ago the British motor cycle industry was on top of the world. BSA, the market leader, had emerged from the post-war slump as a Midlands industrial giant, substantially bigger than the

neighbouring Guest, Keen and Nettlefold. At Meriden, two brilliant entrepreneurs, Edward Turner and John Sangster, had broken into the lucrative American market.

At the beginning of the fifties, they sold their Triumph business to BSA for £2,500,000, effectively leaving the industry with two major companies, BSA and Associated Motor Cycles (AMC).

By 1960, AMC was recording a loss—the first of many—and the whole industry was beginning to reel under the impact of small motor cycles imported in the first place from the Continent, and then in increasing numbers, from Japan.

The British pair retreated to the comfort of their own machines, over 350cc. But the writing was already on the wall, and in 1960, AMC had to call in the receiver. That was when Dennis Poore, an Old Etonian and former racing driver, appeared on the scene. As chairman of Managem, a medium-sized public company specializing in the treatment of non-ferrous metals, he was looking around for new investments.

He bought 371,000 shares in the company, making it a public company. He was looking for a way to turn the company into a public company, and he was looking for a way to turn the company into a public company.

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But the author insists that NVT might have prospered if it had not been launched on the basis of a hopelessly flawed prospectus. It had too little finance, and was hampered by ministerial interference at every turn.

The role of the Export Credit Guarantee Department in this dismal saga and ministers' attempts to manipulate it to circumvent parliamentary controls come in for criticism. It seems that only the reluctance of the Treasury to be saddled with exclusive responsibility for NVT forced the Conservative government to abandon plans to use ECGD money to circumvent the 5 per cent limit attached to discretionary use of Section 8 of the 1972 Industry Act.

A year later, under a Labour government, when Mr Wedgwood Benn financed the Meriden Cooperative with ECGD credits, the author insists that Parliament and the public were blissfully unaware of the implication contained in the ministerial directive: that ECGD had refused to accept responsibility for the risk it was being asked to shoulder.

From then on, he claims, ministers entered into commitments calculated to rouse expectations which were swiftly disappointed.

No wonder, had Mr Poore, the chosen captain of this hazardous venture, set forth, than it became apparent that he could not count on the

backing of his public shareholder. Legislation which had never been conceived for this purpose was invoked, and the information given to Parliament displayed at best a limited awareness of the true condition of both the market, and the participating companies.

But what alternative was there to government intervention? The author has little to offer in answer to this crucial question. He says BSA would have been liquidated and Triumph Meriden might have found a private buyer because it still had a motor cycle with an international reputation.

It is also possible that if the government had permitted BSA to collapse it would have dragged down Norton Villiers with it. While Mr Bruce-Gardner is undoubtedly on safe ground when he suggests that the disappearance of the British motor cycle industry would not strike a mortal blow at the country's economy, he is surely vulnerable when he argues that there are no social grounds for trying to resist market forces.

The sad conclusion is that we shall never know whether an adequately financed NVT—Poore wanted £30m to £40m and no Meriden sit-in hampering it for 18 months, would have made a go of things.

Meriden: Odyssey of a Lane Duck by Jack Bruce-Gardner, published by The Centre for Policy Studies (£2.25).

Mr. Gerald Wightman, Chairman and Chief Executive, says of the future:—

"Sales in the first two months of 1978/79 are on target and show a satisfactory improvement over the same period last year. Fully expect that the upward trend of the last several years will continue in the current year given no major set backs in the UK economy as a whole."

Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from the Secretary, SKETCHLEY LIMITED, Rugby Road, Hinckley, Leicestershire.

## Business Diary in Europe: Another reprieve for Boussac

Boussac's ailing French empire has been given another reprieve. Under pressure from the court, which thinks that break-up would be the best of all solutions, the pool of assets to which it owes some 1,500 employees of the Paris firm has agreed to issue to help it along until end of July.

The decision was taken at a long last week between the receiver appointed by the Paris commercial court, Claude Fournier, chairman of the pool, and the court.

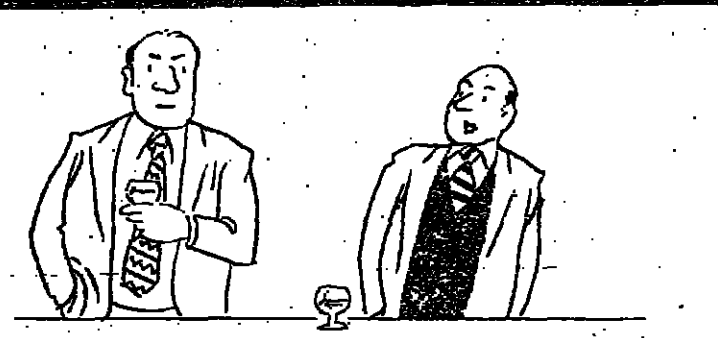
It does not mean, as was first, that the wages of 11,500 employees of the pool are assured until the end of September. The Government is negotiating with two or three financial groups for the over of the Boussac empire, companies altogether, or, if proved impossible, at least to be able to pay the wages of the pool.

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Hollowood

"If Ted Heath is the hottest fan of the EEC, how much cooler is Mrs Thatcher?"

receiver. But neither the sale of L'Aurore, nor the decision of the banks to continue to discount the group's bills, are sufficient to keep Boussac going even until the end of September and meet the staff wages bill of about 25m francs a month.

To prolong their facilities beyond the end of this month, the banks are insisting that Boussac make another concession, and extend to his own movable assets—jewels, pictures, racing stables, and a shooting estate—the security he has already provided on his personal fortune.

About this, however, his lawyer, who is negotiating with the banks, is perhaps understandably not very keen.

These are anxious days for the up and coming Italian manager or executive, aged anything between 30 and 50, especially if outside his company he plays

These are anxious days for the up and coming Italian manager or executive, aged anything between 30 and 50, especially if outside his company he plays

of Confindustria, the confederation of private industry in Rome. He was attacked while leaving his Milan home after breakfast to go to his office.

The same technique was employed the next day in Turin on Aldo Ravaioli, 34, who besides owning a small light engineering firm is president of the Turin small industrialists association.

On Friday Fausto Gasparino was shot up by two people as he was leaving home after lunch to return to his office. He is the deputy head in Genoa of Interind, the organization set up by the state-owned corporations to negotiate on their behalf with the trade unions.

Unfortunately, the Red Brigades proclaim that the ills of society are due to the capitalist system, and that one of its tools is Confindustria. Anyone representing industry must feel in the front line.

While the National Union of Mineworkers was meeting in Torquay last week, Spain's state coal-mining company, Hunosa, was stringing details of record years. Sadly, though, the records were not calculated to please Spanish taxpayers.

Hunosa's annual report showed losses in 1977 of £70m, more than in any of the previous years, and a record of 15 per cent increase in 1978 over 1977.

Of little consolation was the fact that Hunosa's sales were up by a hefty 47 per cent. The company failed to meet its production goals by 15 per cent, and there was more time lost owing to absenteeism and labour

troubles than ever before—more than 940,000 man-days. Average daily production per miner was 836 kilos, a figure which Hunosa's management considers unsatisfactory.

The company president, Fernandez Pelguez, was, nevertheless, able to raise a note of optimism. He expects things to improve when the government gets round to offering incentives for the use of coal rather than oil.

Hunosa, a subsidiary of Spain's big state-run cartel INI (National Institute for Industry), was originally set up in General Franco's day to take over unprofitable mining operations in the politically sensitive northern region of Asturias in order to hold down unemployment.

Although it consistently operates at a loss, some Spaniards believe that it has turned out to be a good thing for the country, keeping coal fields in production and offering an alternative to imported petroleum.

The company's plans for the future involve more concentration on opencast mining in an effort to reduce costs.

Danish prime minister, Anker Jorgensen had a problem when he gave a report to his European Community colleagues at the Bremen summit last week: he could not find his spectacles. Fortunately, Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, came to his rescue and lent Jorgensen his own. A nice gesture which led to a remark: "Evidently, they suffer from the same defect of vision."

## Sketchley

Limited

The industrial workwear rental, dry cleaning and textile finishing group.

- Sales up 19.6%.
- Pre-tax profits up 62.5%.
- Earnings per share up 71.8%.
- Industrial Services division now accounts for 54% of profits.
- Rights Issue of 1 for 5 to raise £2.19 million.
- Forecast dividend increase by 15%.

### Financial Highlights (taken from the Annual Report)

	Year ended 31st March 1978	Year ended 31st April 1977
Sales	33,653	28,137
Profit before tax	3,663	2,254
Profit after tax	1,688	974
Dividends per ordinary share	4.68983p	4.24271p
Earnings per share	13.4p	7.8p

Mr. Gerald Wightman, Chairman and Chief Executive, says of the future:—

"Sales in the first two months of 1978/79 are on target and show a satisfactory improvement over the same period last year. Fully expect that the upward trend of the last several years will continue in the current year given no major set backs in the UK economy as a whole."

Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from the Secretary,

SKETCHLEY LIMITED, Rugby Road, Hinckley, Leicestershire.







## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Slippage in  
dry cargo  
market is  
continuing

The level of trading in both a tanker and dry cargo markets was lower last week as in part to the Independence Day holidays in the United States. These were responsible for the tanker market really kicking off until mid-week while dry cargo trading was not much better. Despite a reduction in shipping, tanker chartering remained firm, but the dry cargo sector felt the effects of the holiday season. However, cause of a stable portion of shipping being kept, a true segment was not possible. Rates for dry cargo continued to rise slowly with figures arranged at between \$24.75 and \$25.50 a ton according to the size of the vessel and the size of the cargo. The latter was paid for mail via the Gulf to Mediterranean voyage.

## Freight report

Brokers feel optimistic that as will go on rising although by much. The improved but unprofitable rate levels have caused some owners to tone down more easily, but their resistance has been a few weeks ago, never, just a look back at as of five years ago when it was 10 times higher, and an instant appreciation of how bad the current situation is.

As to last week's big ship in the Gulf, one vessel taken at worldwide 21 and a vessel was booked, including for European run and for a trip to the Caribbean.

David Robinson

Weekly list of fixed  
interest stocks

Company	Price	Yield
Wilton 7% Deb	67	7.7
Wilton 8% Deb	67	8.0
Wilton 9% Deb	67	8.3
Wilton 10% Deb	67	8.6
Wilton 11% Deb	67	8.9
Wilton 12% Deb	67	9.2
Wilton 13% Deb	67	9.5
Wilton 14% Deb	67	9.8
Wilton 15% Deb	67	10.1
Wilton 16% Deb	67	10.4
Wilton 17% Deb	67	10.7
Wilton 18% Deb	67	11.0
Wilton 19% Deb	67	11.3
Wilton 20% Deb	67	11.6
Wilton 21% Deb	67	11.9
Wilton 22% Deb	67	12.2
Wilton 23% Deb	67	12.5
Wilton 24% Deb	67	12.8
Wilton 25% Deb	67	13.1
Wilton 26% Deb	67	13.4
Wilton 27% Deb	67	13.7
Wilton 28% Deb	67	14.0
Wilton 29% Deb	67	14.3
Wilton 30% Deb	67	14.6
Wilton 31% Deb	67	14.9
Wilton 32% Deb	67	15.2
Wilton 33% Deb	67	15.5
Wilton 34% Deb	67	15.8
Wilton 35% Deb	67	16.1
Wilton 36% Deb	67	16.4
Wilton 37% Deb	67	16.7
Wilton 38% Deb	67	17.0
Wilton 39% Deb	67	17.3
Wilton 40% Deb	67	17.6
Wilton 41% Deb	67	17.9
Wilton 42% Deb	67	18.2
Wilton 43% Deb	67	18.5
Wilton 44% Deb	67	18.8
Wilton 45% Deb	67	19.1
Wilton 46% Deb	67	19.4
Wilton 47% Deb	67	19.7
Wilton 48% Deb	67	20.0
Wilton 49% Deb	67	20.3
Wilton 50% Deb	67	20.6
Wilton 51% Deb	67	20.9
Wilton 52% Deb	67	21.2
Wilton 53% Deb	67	21.5
Wilton 54% Deb	67	21.8
Wilton 55% Deb	67	22.1
Wilton 56% Deb	67	22.4
Wilton 57% Deb	67	22.7
Wilton 58% Deb	67	23.0
Wilton 59% Deb	67	23.3
Wilton 60% Deb	67	23.6
Wilton 61% Deb	67	23.9
Wilton 62% Deb	67	24.2
Wilton 63% Deb	67	24.5
Wilton 64% Deb	67	24.8
Wilton 65% Deb	67	25.1
Wilton 66% Deb	67	25.4
Wilton 67% Deb	67	25.7
Wilton 68% Deb	67	26.0
Wilton 69% Deb	67	26.3
Wilton 70% Deb	67	26.6
Wilton 71% Deb	67	26.9
Wilton 72% Deb	67	27.2
Wilton 73% Deb	67	27.5
Wilton 74% Deb	67	27.8
Wilton 75% Deb	67	28.1
Wilton 76% Deb	67	28.4
Wilton 77% Deb	67	28.7
Wilton 78% Deb	67	29.0
Wilton 79% Deb	67	29.3
Wilton 80% Deb	67	29.6
Wilton 81% Deb	67	29.9
Wilton 82% Deb	67	30.2
Wilton 83% Deb	67	30.5
Wilton 84% Deb	67	30.8
Wilton 85% Deb	67	31.1
Wilton 86% Deb	67	31.4
Wilton 87% Deb	67	31.7
Wilton 88% Deb	67	32.0
Wilton 89% Deb	67	32.3
Wilton 90% Deb	67	32.6
Wilton 91% Deb	67	32.9
Wilton 92% Deb	67	33.2
Wilton 93% Deb	67	33.5
Wilton 94% Deb	67	33.8
Wilton 95% Deb	67	34.1
Wilton 96% Deb	67	34.4
Wilton 97% Deb	67	34.7
Wilton 98% Deb	67	35.0
Wilton 99% Deb	67	35.3
Wilton 100% Deb	67	35.6

Bank Base  
Rates

BN Bank	10%
Clays Bank	10%
C.F. Bank	10%
Consolidated Crds.	10%
Hoare & Co.	10%
Lyds. Bank	10%
London Mercantile	10%
Land Bank	10%
Westminster	10%
Westminster Ltd	10%
B	10%
Williams and Glyn's	10%



§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

[illegible]







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